

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Scott Andersen, Andy Lowell, Dave Bossi,
Ginger Andrews, Peter Brace

Members Absent: Dave Fronzuto, Stephen Payor

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Jeff Carlson

Others: Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of June 22, 2022

Approved, 4-0. Mr. Bossi abstained because he didn't attend the June 22, 2022 meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Election of officers

Because only five of the seven members of the HSAB were present, the board agreed to postpone election of officers until the Aug. 2, 2022 meeting.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Mr. Carlson reported that the Natural Resources Department's (NRD) water quality sampling program was operating along with the shellfish larval release program. He added that last week, the NRD continued to support the Nantucket Land Council's (NLC) multi-year eelgrass transplanting and restoration project in Nantucket Harbor including the collection of 10,000 eelgrass plants and work on collection eelgrass seeds. Mr. Carlson said the NRD has finalized all the paperwork to get Urban Harbors of Boston, MA. to do an update of the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan.

Mr. Carlson reported that the storm water regulations discussion proposed by the town for which Town Manager Libby Gibson had recently requested a Select Board public hearing for, were originally conceived for dealing with draining of pools and temporary dewatering of construction sites. He added that the former director of Public Works had been working on this issue. On the issue of fertilizer, Mr. Carlson reported that he is working with the Fertilizer Advisory Group to be ready for how the state will handle Nantucket's homerule petition seeking to ban the sale of fertilizer on Nantucket. He added that the state doesn't allow the Town to amend its existing fertilizer regulations. However, he is working with various island groups to revise and amend the fertilizer best management practices.

Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Carlson if a map could be created showing the extent of the downtown storm water collection that discharges into the harbor. Mr. Lowell said he's concerned that the in-filling of lots around town and the lack of gutters, downspouts and dry wells being installed on these properties. He also asked if the Town is reaching out to property owners to get them to address these issues on their own. Mr. Carlson said such a map is already in the works and that the town is reaching out to property owners on

those issues. Mr. Carlson said the Town hopes to create a map that is user-friendly. He added that the NRD is hiring a public relations person to help it reach out better to the public on how people can help stem the flow and the content of stormwater runoff in the harbors.

Mr. Brace asked for an update on the proposed dredging plan for Nantucket's waterways. Mr. Carlson reported that the Sediment Transport Study & Dredge Plan will be created and managed by the NRD's coastal resilience coordinator, Vincent Murphy. He added that the start of this process will include mapping the bottoms of Nantucket and Madaket harbors. Mr. Carlson said the combined project is already funded and in progress.

Mr. Carlson reported that the NRD will soon begin the process of updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Lowell asked to meet with Mr. Murphy so he could show him some historical photos of the harbors to aid him with the Sediment Transport Study & Dredge Plan.

Ms. Andrews asked if the Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission (NP&EDC) could help with strengthening restrictions on fertilizer use. Mr. Carlson said that a homerule petition could be used to make regulatory amendments to the Town's fertilizer regulations.

Mr. Lowell asked if any adjustments to the use of in-harbor gear to prevent another sea turtle from getting hung up in buoys and rope as one did earlier this summer. Mr. Carlson said that the NRD is focusing on minimizing the number of vertical lines in the harbors and are looking at other options for rope hanging from the surface of the water down into the water column. He added that the NRD won't stop putting out spat bags, which the turtle got hung up in, in the harbor.

Mr. Brace asked when the Federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA) would be visiting Nantucket to check out boats with heads in them in Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Carlson didn't have definitive answer for him.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Letter of support for temporary shellfish and anchoring closure at new eelgrass restoration site – Discussion

Mr. Brace reported that Emily Molden, NLC's executive director, is coordinating the sending of her public hearing request with the sending of the HSAB's letter to the Select Board. Mr. Lowell asked that the full board be added to the bottom of the letter. The HSAB voted unanimously, 5-0, to send the letter to the Select Board.

Liveaboard application – Discussion

Mr. Bossi confirmed that the newly revised application covers all of the concerns he had about the original application.

Returning to in-person meetings

Mr. Bossi agreed that this is a good idea. Mr. Brace said the first in-person meeting for the HSAB would be Aug. 2, 2022.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Stormwater runoff and harbor impacts

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Excessive lawn fertilizer use: Update – Discussion – New information

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board - Update

Mr. Brace did not have an update for the HSAB

Goals & Objectives – Discussion

Mr. Lowell suggested that the HSAB hold a workshop meeting on this topic in the near future.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Lowell reminded the board of the NLC's State of the Harbor Forum on July 19 at the Nantucket Yacht Club.

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 5-0, at 5:59 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEEDOZhDBeU&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

Aug. 2 and Sept. 6

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary