

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Meeting trailer at 131 Pleasant St.
Nantucket, MA 02554 &
Via Zoom
*HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Dave Bossi, Scott Anderson,
Stephen Payer, Peter Brace

Members Absent: Ginger Andrews, Dave Fronzuto

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Rick Atherton

CALL TO ORDER

5 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Nov. 1, 2022

Unanimously approved, 4-0 with Mr. Payer abstaining because wasn't in attendance.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Lowell suggested the possibility of not holding the Dec. 20, 2022 meeting due to its proximity to the Christmas holiday. Mr. Brace said he would not be on island for this meeting

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that for first week of commercial scalloping, there were around 15 boats; eight in Madaket and six or seven in Nantucket Harbor with most people getting in around noon with their limits.

Ms. Riley reported that the Town's water resources specialist, Thais Fournier, had turned in her resignation and that the Town's coastal resilience coordinator, Vincent Murphy, is taking the the Town's new position of sustainability coordinator.

Ms. Riley reported that she met with the Great Harbor Yacht Club's Youth Foundation along with Steve Tettlebach whose been working to restore the Peconic Bay bay scallop fishery on Long Island, N.Y. and J.J. Orth who was instrumental in restoring eelgrass grow in Chesapeake Bay. Both are helping Ms. Riley make her shellfish program better with the aid of the GHYC.

Additionally, Mr. Orth is working on an eelgrass management plan for Nantucket, maybe around a 20-page document. As a result of this meeting, Ms. Riley reported that the Brant Point Shellfish Hatchery would be receiving an algae bioreactor that will be replacing 75 percent of the hatchery's algae production equipment. She added that it's automated and cleans itself, overall cutting down on labor at the hatchery

Ms. Riley said she is working, with the help of a National Parks grant, with the Nantucket Boys & Girls Club to get fourth graders to work on oyster restoration with them.

Ms. Riley said she and her crew are also working on repairs and maintenance at the hatchery.

Mr. Anderson asked what Mr. Orth did for eelgrass restoration.

Ms. Riley said the restoration was down on open ocean shores and that they "mass-harvested seeds using heavy equipment" and then doing large plantings with the seeds.

Mr. Brace asked what Mr. Murphy's new job would be. Ms. Riley said a sustainability "arm" was added to the Town's Natural Resources Department about a year ago and that Mr. Murphy was hired to be the sustainability coordinator under which the Town's coastal technician, recycling coordinator, energy coordinator and the coastal resilience coordinator would be.

Mr. Brace asked how Ms. Riley viewed the current season. She said she felt there were more boats fishing than reported. She added that she would be surprised if scallopers weren't getting their limits in both harbors.

Mr. Lowell said the season started out with fewer boats than last season but with more scallops and that it might be good for the harbor to have less boats dredging the harbor bottom. Mr. Lowell ask Ms. Riley if she felt there were more recreational scallopers permitted in 2022 than in 2021. Ms. Riley said she definitely felt that there were more. She added that she hopes she can start an annual catch report system going soon so recreational scallopers must report how many bushels they took in the previous year before they can get their new permit. Mr. Anderson said there should be a way for lifetime permit holders to report their previous year's catch. Ms. Riley said this could be solved with a mailed questionnaire.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

No public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Harbors Action Plan Committee update & Discussion

Mr. Lowell said he knew of a person in Monomoy who wished to be on this committee as an at-large member. He reported that he asked Erika Mooney with the Town if the HSAB could endorse such members. She said individual citizens could "put in a good word" for potential at-large members.

Mr. Atherton of the Roads & Right of Ways Committee said his committee has one member who has applied for one of the at-large positions and that this board is endorsing him.

Green crabs – Scott Anderson’s ideas

Mr. Lowell said that he welcomes anything he can contribute to this item, he would welcome it.

Mr. Anderson said he was disturbed after reading the 2009 Nantucket & Madaket Harbors Action Plan while aware of current eelgrass restoration efforts because he felt Nantucket would just be feeding the green crabs and that putting more shellfish out in the harbors without addressing our green crab problem seemed pointless to him.

Mr. Lowell asked if Ms. Riley had anything to add. Ms. Riley said she’ll check in with Mr. Orth on this for the eelgrass Management Plan.

Mr. Lowell asked if the build-up of sand in eelgrass beds has been part of her discussions with Mr. Orth and Ms. Riley said that it had been. Mr. Lowell asked for a dredging plan update. Ms. Riley said she didn't have an update.

Mr. Anderson noted that Mr. Payer was not listed on the minutes of Oct. 4, 2022 meeting as being absent and requested that this edit be made to these minutes. Mr. Brace said he would make this change.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Stormwater runoff and harbor impacts, and discussion of possible production of zones of contribution brochure with map for property owners

Mr. Lowell recapped the intent of this proposed effort. He said the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) showed interest in this idea at one of its recent meetings.

Mr. Brace suggested that all the information should be gathered and produce a rough version of the map, and then present it to the

Select Board as recommendation asking them if they want help fund this and telling them that the NSA is interested in helping financially.

Mr. Lowell ask if Ms. Riley had maps of the zones of contribution to the watersheds that drain into the harbor through outfall pipes. Ms. Riley said she has a partial map showing all the outfall pipes running into the harbor and that the Town's geographic information system (GIS) person could probably help put such a map together. She said she would send her map to the HSAB.

Excessive lawn fertilizer use: Update – Discussion – New information

No discussion.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Ms. Riley said that Food & Drug Administration (FDA) personnel are going to notify NRD staff 24 hours before they come to Nantucket to check out our situation.

Mr. Lowell asked what the highest temperature recorded in Nantucket Harbor was in 2022. Ms. Riley said she thought 81 degrees in the head of the harbor was the highest this year, but most of the other recordings were at 78 degrees.

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board (CRAC) – Update

Mr. Brace reported that the CRAC finalized a letter to the Select Board that would then go to the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requesting that the Conservation Commission be able to ensure the public's access over, around and in front of erosion control structures on private property as required by their Chapter 91 licenses.

First two weeks of commercial bay scallop season – Discussion

Mr. Lowell asked for additional comments. Mr. Payer asked what the HSAB covers for the harbor in terms of HSAB business.

Mr. Brace explained who owns what land surrounding the harbor and that the HSAB advises the Select Board on all activities on, in and around the harbors.

Mr. Payer asked if oyster reefs created off of Coattue's north side to help further protect Coattue and the harbor from sea level rise.

Ms. Riley said that this might be depend on the results of the sediment transport study.

Mr. Lowell said the HSAB writes letters of advisory to the Select Board when it wants push forward a remedy for a specific issue.

He added that the HSAB also advocates for Nantucket's commercial and recreational fishermen and deals with all the other issues relating to the latter.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

No public comments.

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 5-0, at 6:15 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QD1dCt5UDDk&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=3>

Future Meetings:

Dec. 6 and Dec. 20

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary