

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 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 Fronzuto, Dave Bossi,
Scott Anderson, Peter Brace
Members Absent: Ginger Andrews, Stephen Payer
Marine Dept:
Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley
Others: Ken Brasfield

CALL TO ORDER

5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 5-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Jan. 17, 2023

unanimously approved, 5-0

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Lowell reminded everyone that candidacy papers for Town elections are available at the Town Clerk's office and are due by March 22.

Mr. Lowell reported that he attended the Jan. 24 Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) meeting at which the NSA lamented that the fertilizer ban article is not being resubmitted as rewritten and that Nantucket Land Council (NLC) executive director Emily Molden reported that the Toscana Corp. is accepting green crabs,

which it will turn into fertilizer. She added that the NLC is creating a grant of \$10,000 to pay fishermen to trap green crab.

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 the shellfish hatchery recently took delivery of the algae bioreactor. She added that she and her crew are operating it at full capacity.

Ms. Riley reported that Quentin the Quahog spat to the right, heralding an early spring.

Ms. Riley reported that she is attending the National Shellfish Association meeting in Baltimore, MD in March. She is going to report on what she and the hatchery are doing on Nantucket in terms of habitat and shellfish restoration.

She reported that she is posting for intern positions as well as job postings for the water quality specialist and assistant town biologist positions.

Mr. Riley reported that the harbor plan update committee met on Feb. 7, 2023.

Ms. Riley didn't have a scallop catch report for the HSAB.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

Mr. Brasfield, an island bay scallop wholesaler, helped the HSAB understand the current situation with island fishmongers not buying scallops, why the current price is so low and why the demand for scallops is low this season.

Mr. Brasfield explained that bay scallop is a high-end item off island. He said the market for them has been hit hard by COVID-

19, the Me-Too movement, inflation and as always, by changes in the restaurant industry. He added that restaurants have gone to spicier and cheaper foods. He added that the cost of food has made people cut back on higher priced items and not eating out as much. He said it's a very complicated situation he has to figure out.

Mr. Brasfield stressed that the Town must continue to work hard on increasing and maintaining the health of the harbor and water quality, find a way to enforce the fertilizer regulations. He said the Town is not doing enough.

Ms. Riley asked if Mr. Brasfield sells other seafood. He said he only sells scallops.

Mr. Brasfield said Nantucket has competition from sea scallops and other fish species.

Mr. Brasfield said up until the last couple of years, the fishermen he buys from would scallop the entire season but that now, many of them quit fishing after the holidays.

Ms. Riley said that since 2019, the Peconic Bay bay scallop fishery has been complete decline and that a major factor is increasing water temperatures. Mr. Brasfield agreed.

Ms. Riley said there's more factors than the current demand going on right now. She added that there's a lot more scallops in the harbors to be caught this season, but not enough demand, and scallopers, to make it worth it for scallopers to fish for them.

Mr. Brasfield said he's not seeing an awareness of sustainability within Nantucket's bay scallop fishery.

Mr. Anderson asked when Mr. Brasfield started seeing this decline in the demand for Nantucket Scallops. Mr. Brasfield said that low harvest in the 2021/2022 season caused off island buyers to view his operation and others as unreliable for meeting their needs.

Ms. Riley said there needs to be more waterfront access for commercial fishermen in Nantucket Harbor.

Mr. Brace asked if the commercial bay scallop fishermen are aging out. Mr. Riley replied said there would be a fair number of them again out within the next five years and yet, there aren't enough younger fishermen joining the fleet.

Mr. Brasfield said also that it's very hard right now to get good scallop openers right now.

Mr. Lowell agreed that there aren't a lot of younger people entering the fishery.

Mr. Brasfield asked why the price is now \$13/pound. Mr. Brace said he felt that it was the buyers not buying right now, so this is making Nantucket less reliable in sending scallops off island.

Mr. Lowell asked how the price is marked up when the scallops get off island. Mr. Brace said inflation is a likely contributor. Mr. Mr. Brasfield wondered aloud where the other bay scallops in the market coming from.

Mr. Brace asked if low demand is happening because restaurants are shifting away from bay scallops because their patrons are. Mr. Brasfield said that cooking bay scallops well enough to retain their flavor is challenging in a restaurant kitchen setting.

Mr. Lowell asked if a scalloper coop might work.

OLD BUSINESS

Vineyard Wind and Mayflower Wind – Discussion

Mr. Lowell announced a meeting at the Planning & Land Use Services (PLUS) building, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 8, 2023 at 6 p.m. Mayflower Wind and then at the Select Board meeting that night at 6 p.m.

Mr. Brace said the HSAB needs all the information in front it before advising the Select Board. Mr. Brace stated that he supports wind power and that he supports this project. He stressed that he needed to see the hard data that driving the wind turbine pylons into the ocean bottom is going to stir up ocean sediments that could then flow into and fill up Nantucket Harbor because at this point, he doesn't believe that this is going to happen.

Mr. Lowell said his concerns include the potential harm of buried power cables between the turbines and the mainland on marine life. Mr. Brace recommended checking out any data from National Grid on this issue.

Mr. Fronzuto agreed with Mr. Brace on speaking with Sarah Oktay on sediment from pylon installation filling up the harbor.

Green crabs - Discussion

Mr. Anderson said he is still working on his green crabs report. Ms. Riley said she would report back to the board what she learns about green crabs at the National Shellfish Association conference she's attending in March. Mr. Fronzuto said Mr. Anderson needs to get his information to the Nantucket Shellfish Association and the NLC.

Harbors Action Plan Committee HSAB recommendations - Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said that the process is trying to get the updated plan approved by the state in early 2024. Mr. Brace added that there should be meetings twice a month instead of monthly.

Sediment Transport Study and dredge plan – Discussion

Ms. Riley reported that she's received proposals from four companies to do this study and plan for Nantucket

Pool water discharge - Discussion

No report.

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 reported that the Select Board talked about this issue a week ago concerning proposed stormwater runoff regulations. He added that he wanted to vote on a recommendation on this to send to the Select Board to add to their proposal.

Mr. Fronzuto reported that he spoke with the Finance Director who told him that there's no problem with the HSAB putting its

mockup of a brochure in the next tax bill. Mr. Brace recommended that the HSAB inform Town Administration that the HSAB is doing this. Mr. Lowell agreed.

Mr. Bossi said the Town's GIS web site does allow people to find their property on the site. He suggested that Mr. Brace inform Town Administration that the HSAB is going to put this brochure in the next tax bill. Mr. Brace said he would write up a draft email to send to the town. Mr. Bossi said the maps he spoke of are not layers that can be used on the Town GIS page.

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

Mr. Brace reported that the CRAC discussed how to handle the resilience of Snakaty Bluff now that the Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund is no longer pursuing its geotube expansion and is going to be removing the current geotube installation. He added that now individual property owners are expected to install their own protections and the problems this would likely cause. He added that the CRAC also discussed the ongoing effort to move the north end of Baxter Road further inland to protect its integrity.

Mr. Brace said that interim Coastal Resilience Coordinator Vincent Murphy ran through his fourth quarter report on CRAC's activities. Mr. Brace reported that Mr. Murphy showed the committee a chart showing the progress of the 40 recommendations within the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP).

Mr. Lowell asked which projects are the priorities in the CRP. Mr. Brace explained several projects are already in motion to both address highly vulnerable sections of roads around the island and show the public the severity of the threat of sea level rise. These projects include shoring up or possibly replacing Millie's Bridge in Madaket, raising Madaket Road at First and Second Bridge, and building bridges at each, raising Polpis Road running through Folgers Marsh and installing an artificial reef in Sesachacha Pond

in front of Polpis Road while reestablishing water flow between the pond and marsh on the west side of the road.

Mr. Brace said some CRAC members were concerned that the Steamship Authority is not moving fast enough to get going on its resilience plan for Steamboat Wharf.

Mr. Lowell asked how coastal resilience would be applied to this part of the waterfront. Mr. Lowell asked if a ferry service might be considered between Madaket and Smith's Point. Mr. Brace said he knew of a feasibility study on this.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

Mr. Lowell said Hillary Rayport is trying to have the Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission's (NP&EDC) at-large members be elected instead of appointed.

Mr. Brace reported that an article on the warrant this year, Article 82, proposes to make the HSAB and other board, an appointed board. He added that this article will be tabled at Town Meeting.

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 5-0, at 6:33 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPxOsqvMO9I&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

Feb. 7 and Feb. 21

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary