

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Meeting trailer, 131 Pleasant St., Nantucket, MA 02554
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded and**
available at Nantucket Government TV on YouTube

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

Members Absent: Stephen Payer

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

5:12 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 6-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Feb. 21, 2023

Unanimously approved, 6-0

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Candidates letter to the editor -

Mr. Lowell noted that he did not see the letter in the most recent issue of the Inquirer & Mirror.

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 scallop bushel count remains around 3,500 bushels for the season. She added that she hoped the season would end at 5,000+ bushels.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her staff would be doing harbor bottom surveys in the spring to assess.

Ms. Riley reported that the Natural Resources Department (NRD) hired Geosyntec Consultants to do the dredging of Miacomet Pond for the Town for \$369,000. The firm started on Feb. 1, 2023 and aims to complete its work by Jan. 31, 2024. She added that the sediment transport study and dredging plan bid selection process is still going on with no contractor selected by the Town yet.

Ms. Riley reported that there is an eco-enhancement and resilience grant in play for reef balls to be put along the shoreline of Polpis Road to stabilize this road with a living shoreline. The Town hired the Woods Hole Group for \$158,000 to do the work.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her staff restarted the new algae bioreactor to raise the density of algae production along with running the existing algae production system. Ms. Riley reported the hatchery's shellfish propagation begins with oysters on March 1 and then on May 8. She added that the first scallop spawn will be at the end of April and into early May. She added that she is time to time her propagation with 22 degrees Celsius and with chlorophyll levels. She will be releasing scallops in July and August this year instead of June and July.

Ms. Riley said the hatchery is currently receiving intern applications and that she's posted the job offerings for assistant Town biologist and water quality specialist.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her staff will be working with the Nantucket Boys & Girls Club funded by a grant for an eight-week program called "The Great Oyster Explorers." The program, for 15 kids, is two to three hours a week of spawning, raising and

growing oysters that will eventually be released on the artificial oyster reef in front of Medouie Creek in Polpis Harbor East.

Ms. Riley reported she and her staff are working with the Great Harbor Youth Foundation, July 17-21, providing a week of marine ecology.

Ms. Riley reported she is meeting this week with Bob Orth on the ongoing eelgrass restoration project in Nantucket Harbor. The Nantucket Land Council will be continuing its eelgrass restoration on Hussey Shoal and out at Fifth Bend.

Ms. Riley said she is doing a spring harbor dive assessment in the harbor for the first time to gauge the bay scallop populations after the commercial season.

Mr. Brace suggested that the recreational bay scallop season be extended. Ms. Riley offered that maybe the Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board (HSAB) reconsider increasing the per license bushel limit if it looks like there's more scallops in the harbors to be caught. Ms. Riley suggested the HSAB should wait to recommend this to the Select Board only when commercial scallopers come to the HSAB to request this. She and Mr. Lowell agreed that speaking with Samantha Denette of the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) for her input on this idea. Mr.

Fronzuto agreed and added that a one- or two-week extension would work best. Ms. Riley said the Select Board approved a two-week extension of the 2017-2018 season.

Mr. Brace asked if he should write up a paragraph on what the HSAB does for Ms. Riley to create a slide for her upcoming presentation at the National Shellfish Association meeting at the end of March. The HSAB agreed to have Mr. Brace do this.

Mr. Fronzuto asked Ms. Riley how many cubic yards of material would be dredged from Miacomet Pond. Ms. Riley didn't have an answer. Mr. Fronzuto asked if Ms. Riley would be spawning quahogs this season. Ms. Riley said she would not be because of how busy the hatchery would be this season.

Ms. Andrews asked what time of year Miacomet pond would be dredged. Ms. Riley didn't have answer.

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley about the level of involvement in the Town's eelgrass restoration effort by Mr. Orth. Ms. Riley said he would be advising the NRD. Mr. Lowell clarified that he hoped the dredging of certain eelgrass beds, the HSAB's proposed micro-dredging project, would be considered by Mr. Orth in advising the Town.

Ms. Riley reported that the first part of the project is dredging design with core samples being taken before May and after October with three to nine days of work required.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Brochure email – discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said he spoke with the tax collector for the town who said their print contractor would print the HSAB's insert. He added that there is an option to have the insert printed on a one-quarter page "buck slip" if the HSAB wanted to.

The HSAB discussed what information should go on the insert and attempted to figure out how the board would show on the insert where property owners' inputs into the harbor from Monomoy up to Wauwinet. Mr. Fronzuto said any such input would be flowing from wetlands on private properties and it could be challenging to find them. Mr. Lowell stressed that the HSAB should focus on the downtown area first. Mr. Bossi suggested some text for the insert that would attract property owners to the workshop.

The board discussed which tax mailing the insert should go in. Mr. Brace suggested shooting for the Aug. 1 mailing. Mr. Fronzuto explained the deadlines from the tax collector for the insert. Mr. Brace suggested a full sheet of paper with the whole Nantucket Harbor Watershed on one side with the downtown waterfront portion on the other side. Ms. Andrews suggested one or two

colors because people would ignore black and white. She added that since most people are the least aware of the storm drains and that the insert should focus on this. She recommended using the bare bones information on the insert. Mr. Bossi proposed focusing on the downtown area and then the invitation on the other side. Ms. Andrews agreed and added that some did-you-know facts could go on the back of the insert as well.

Mr. Bossi said he would do a revised insert for the board. Mr. Brace said the HSAB should at least aim for a two-color insert since the NRD said it would foot the bill. Mr. Lowell said he could also ask the NSA for some funding.

The HSAB agreed Mr. Brace should refine the email to Erika Mooney with this meeting's suggested revisions and Mr. Bossi should revise the mockup of the insert. The HSAB voted 6-0 to have Mr. Brace send the email to Ms. Mooney.

Vineyard Wind and South Coast Wind – Discussion

Mr. Lowell talked about floating wind turbines proposed off the coast of Maine anchored to the bottom. Mr. Lowell said that South Coast Wind has yet to choose the wind turbine company it will buy its wind turbines from.

Green crabs – Discussion

Mr. Anderson reported that he made his revisions to his report so Mr. Fronzuto could pass it along to the Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee (NMHAPUC)

Harbors Action Plan Committee HSAB recommendations - Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto reported that the NMHAPUC had a lengthy discussion on the new planning areas for Nantucket and Madaket harbors. He added that the committee elected Linda Williams as chairman, Mr. Brace as secretary and Phil Smith as vice chairman. Mr. Fronzuto did look into why the harbormaster isn't in regular attendance at this committee's meetings. He reported that the

Town is trying not to put staff members on Town committees, boards and commissions. He added that the harbormaster would be attending these meetings as needed by the committee.

Sediment Transport Study and dredge plan – Discussion

Previously discussed during Ms. Riley's NRD report.

Pool water discharge - Discussion

No discussion.

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. Fronzuto said Sections 3.6 and 3.7 in the Nantucket & Madaket Harbors Action Plan show catch basins into which runoff from various parts of the downtown flow into.

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

No report.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Brace said he would try to have a draft second quarter report ready for the March 21, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Anderson noted that a proposed pool for Maine Avenue on Smith's Point was denied by the Historic District Commission (HDC). The property owner's appeal of this denial to the Select Board was denied and remanded back to the HDC.

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved. 6-0, at 6:37 p.m.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7M9naIF5KxY&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg>

Future Meetings:

March 21 and April 4

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary