

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, June 6, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
*HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

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

Members Absent:

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of May 16, 2023

Unanimously approved, 6-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nantucket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee public meeting

Mr. Lowell reported on this meeting to the board. Mr. Brace said around 80 people attended. Mr. Brace added his observations

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 on May 30, almost all of her hatchery staff positions filled and starting work including interns, water quality specialist Emma Morgan and a seasonal shellfish recycling technician.

Ms. Riley reported that this week, all water quality sampling began around the island and she started testing island ponds for harmful algae blooms; Sesachacha and Tom Nevers ponds.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her hatcher staff completed an “oyster run” on June 5, 2023, setting four and a half million seed on oyster shells for the Nantucket Conservation Foundation’s (NCF) Medouie Creek oyster reef in Polpis Harbor. The oyster seed will also be used for several student programs at the hatchery this summer.

Ms. Riley reported that they did a bay scallop spawn on June 6, 2023 of 135 million scallops.

Mr. Riley reported that she and her staff would be helping the Nantucket Land Council (NLC) collect eelgrass plants in the harbor next week for transplanting at Fifth Bend. She also reported that they’ve put out two rounds of scallop spat bags in the harbor this week. She reported that Nantucket Harbor is at 67 degrees.

Ms. Riley reported that the hatchery is recycling oysters three days a week. She also reported on the success of the Nantucket Oyster Festival held at Cisco Brewers over the weekend.

Mr. Lowell asked if Ms. Riley is happy with her new employees and she replied that she is.

Mr. Fronzuto said he felt that the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee public meeting went really well and that he felt Ms. Riley was doing a great job.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Buck slip explanation and purpose – Update/Discussion

Mr. Lowell and the rest of the HSAB complimented Mr. Bossi on the text on buck slip. Mr. Anderson motioned that the HSAB approve the currently revised version of the buck slip as revised by Mr. Bossi. Mr. Fronzuto seconded Mr. Anderson's motion. The HSAB voted unanimously, 6-0, to approve the buck slip as is. Mr. Brace asked if the HSAB should not now start working on its social media and local media promotional information to promote the workshop. The HSAB agreed to start working on this. Mr. Brace suggested trying to attend one of the Nantucket Civic League's two summer presidents' breakfast.

Mr. Fronzuto said he would start working on an agenda for the workshop and have something to show the board at its June 20 meeting. Mr. Fronzuto indicated that there is plenty of time for the HSAB to firm up its agenda and work on its promotional materials. He added that he would speak with Jeff Carlson, director of the Natural Resources Department (NRD), to see if he could use one of the NRD's copiers to print promotional sheets to hand out.

Vineyard Wind and South Coast Wind – Discussion

The board briefly discussed the merits and negative impacts of wind turbines to be placed south of Nantucket.

Green crabs – Discussion

Mr. Anderson said the HSAB needs to figure out to get more fishermen to go out and set more traps to catch the crabs. Mr. Lowell noted that green crabs were a topic of discussion at several of the tables during the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee public meeting.

Harbors Action Plan Committee HSAB recommendations – Discussion

Mr. Lowell reported that one of the discussions was on trying to find a location for another boat ramp.

Mr. Fronzuto reported that one of the tables he sat at discussed the idea of building a fixed pier on the inside of the west jetty for emergency loading/unloading of ferries and the construction of an additional boat ramp, ideas he came up with during his tenure as Nantucket's harbormaster. Jetties Beach parking lot being so large would make a good staging areas.

Mr. Fronzuto added that this table also discussed critical infrastructure improvements for the Hyline to improve and streamline pickups and drop-offs. Ms. Andrews wanted to know why not on the outside of the west jetty. Mr. Fronzuto explained that the weather is worse on the west side of the west jetty. He said he said he hoped that the HSAB would support this idea and it should be a part of the harbor plan update.

Mr. Lowell indicated that he liked this idea and asked what the impacts on the harbor marine environment would be. Mr. Fronzuto said he believe such a pier on inside of the west jetty would solve a lot of issues within the harbor plan update. Mr. Lowell noted that this idea addresses a lot of current waterfront access issues within Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Lowell reported that the Nantucket Land Bank (NLB) is looking at using a part of its Ottison property to build a boat ramp on into the Creeks. Mr. Fronzuto noted that he learned at this meeting that the Land Bank is a lot more amenable to considering the possibility of alternative boat ramps on some of its waterfront properties.

Sediment Transport Study and dredge plan – Discussion

Mr. Lowell noted that this topic was discussed at the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee public meeting.

Filling empty seat on HSAB – Discussion

Mr. Lowell reported that Steve Leinbach, who had previously showed interest in this opening on the HSAB, declined to submit a letter of interest to the Select Board. However, Mr. Lowell said island fisherman Jim Sjolund did submit a letter of interest.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

No report.

Aquaculture lease program review and update – Discussion

Ms. Riley said there was a lot of discussion at the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee public meeting on this topic. She suggested that the HSAB review the existing bylaw with her at future meetings before making any changes to it. Mr. Fronzuto suggested the HSAB take on this issue during the fall and winter. Ms. Riley added that there is also talk around the island on increasing commercial bay scallop limits and making the commercial season start date earlier than Nov. 12. She recommended that the HSAB plan its review of all of these issues in time for implementing any changes for the 2024/2025 season. Mr. Fronzuto said that because of the large amount of time to discuss all of these issues, they should all be discussed in the context of the big picture. Ms. Riley agreed.

Election of officers

Mr. Bossi motioned that the HSAB re-elect the current slate of officers; Mr. Lowell as chairman, Mr. Anderson as vice chairman and Mr. Brace as secretary. Mr. Fronzuto seconded Mr. Bossi's motion. The HSAB voted unanimously, 6-0 to approve the current slate officers

Summer meeting schedule

The HSAB agreed to meet one meeting only in July and August.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 6-0, at 6:23 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzi7t-DDGJo&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

June 20 and July 4

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary