

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

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

Members Absent: Jim Sjolund

Marine Dept: Sheila Lucey

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Oct. 3, 2023

Approved 3-0 with Mr. Bossi, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Fronzuto abstaining.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

Ms. Lucey gave her report recapping the summer including numbers on the following activities:

Mooring inspections; 764,

Hours working on aids to navigation work; 165,

Requests for on-the-water assistance; 72,

Transient vessels hosted; 1,607,

Patrol hours; 2,211,
Search and rescue cases; 41,
Oil pollution responses; 8.

Ms. Lucey cited significant incidents over the summer including a woman driving her vehicle into the water at the Children's Beach boat ramp, searching for a lost sailor along Coatue and wellness check on a vessel moored in Nantucket Harbor.

Ms. Lucey reported that her staffed pumped out 32,558 gallons of sewage from boats in the harbor and gave out 2,200 boat holding tank dye tablets.

Ms. Lucey reported that the extension off of the Town Pier is working really, really well. She added that phase two of this project, replacement of the sewage pipes, is being done by Robert B. Our. They will also be disassembling the old wooden docks on the Town Pier. Ms. Lucey reported that the project to replace the floating dock system with concrete ones and new pilings should begin in around a month.

Ms. Lucey reported that the major diesel spill in the Nantucket Boat Basin this summer was human error when the boat owner shut down and then reset his WIFI system, which triggered the fuel transfer switch that caused fuel from the starboard tank to be transferred over to the port tank. Already full, the port tank then overflowed an estimated 30 gallons of diesel into Nantucket Harbor. She added that the boat owner paid for all of the cleanup.

Ms. Lucey reported that she will be working with the U.S. Coast Guard from Station Brant Point doing non-retribution safety boardings of commercial scallop boats during the week of Oct. 22-28. She added that she and the Coast Guard will offer these inspections three times this fall.

Ms. Lucey reported that she'll be able to add input for the creation of the dredge plan as part of the ongoing Sediment Transport Study and Dredge Plan.

Ms. Lucey reported said she will be asking for support from the HSAB for limit the number of mooring permits to a single person. In addition, she is working on another regulation change to ensure

that the dinghy docks are being used only by people with rental moorings or permitted moorings because these docks have become congested with people using these docks as a private slip. Ms. Lucey added that people are buying boats just, under 13 feet, the threshold beyond which a boat is not a dinghy, so they can keep their “boat” at the dinghy dock. Ms. Lucey said once this permit system is in place, she’ll be removing the dinghies from the docks without permits on them and contacting their owners to get them get permits. Mr. Brace suggested that the boat sellers hand out these permit applications when they sell boats under 13 feet. Mr. Fronzuto suggested that the boat seller adjacent to the Town Pier use their float in front of their operation for dinghies to tie up to as well. Mr. Lowell suggested reducing the current length definition for a dinghy.

Ms. Lucey said she’d have her proposed regulation revisions for the HSAB to review very soon.

Ms. Lucey said that additionally she wants to revise the regulations to keep boats over 80 feet anchored in the Cord of the Bay outside of the harbor. She said she also hopes to close a loophole now allowing people to transfer their mooring permits to others when they move off island. She added that she hopes to revise the mooring regulations so that when the mooring permit owner moves off island, the permit transfers back to the town.

Ms. Lucey also wants to close several loopholes dealing with access to moorings in front of private residences. Mr. Brace suggested that Ms. Lucey should try to make it mooring requests contingent on the presence of eelgrass habitat and make the mooring could be subject to approval of the town biologist.

Ms. Riley asked for clarification on pumpout data, whether it was for the whole harbor or just the Marine Department’s effort. Ms. Lucey said just the Marine Department because the boat basin is still pumping sewage from boats within it. Ms. Riley noted that extending the anchorage east of the main anchorage of Nantucket Harbor could exacerbate her efforts to get the Federal Food &

Drug Administration (FDA) to lift its May 1-Dec. 1 moratorium for shellfish digging within the town part of the harbor.

Ms. Lucey advocated for keeping the new Marine Department building on the harbor side of the street.

Mr. Lowell and the rest of the board thanked Ms. Lucey for her report.

Ms. Lucey left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that for last two weeks, she and her staff having been using the Natural Resources Department's scallop boat to dredge and move seed from the shallow parts of the Head of the Harbor into deeper water, moving as much 30 bushels per day. She added she should be soon getting help from commercial scallopers prior to the start of the commercial bay scallop season, which starts on Nov. 1, and during the season.

Ms. Riley reported that area near Bass Shoal has more than 500 scallop seed per square meter. She said she plans to work on moving that seed next. She added her plan is to be proactive and move as much seed as she and her staff can to create new areas for spawning reproduction for future seasons.

Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Riley how recreational scallop divers display their permit buttons. She replied on their wetsuits or somewhere on shore.

Mr. Brace asked the status of the cache of scallop seed in Madaket. Ms. Riley said this was in the spring of 2022. She added that she hasn't survey enough in Madaket to see all of the seed in that harbor.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

Harbor watershed public information outreach ideas – Discussion

Mr. Lowell offered some possible avenues toward getting the word out to the public on this issue. He added that the HSAB needed to work on a presentation that can be given in the schools. Mr. Anderson said the HSAB could use Sept. 9 PowerPoint presentation to build a presentation for the students. Mr. Fronzuto agreed.

Mr. Brace reminded the board that it had discussed having a workshop meeting on this after the new year or possibly earlier. He added that the Special Town Meeting being on Nov. 7 meant that the HSAB would have to wait until Nov. 21 to hold its next meeting or hold a meeting on Oct. 31. Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Brace to find out from Erika Mooney whether the meeting trailer is available for an HSAB meeting on Oct. 31.

Green crabs – Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said the online survey by the Nantucket & Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee (N&MHAPUC) received a lot of comments on this issue. Mr. Anderson said he contact the Nantucket Land & Water Council for an update on the trapping program.

Harbors Action Plan Committee HSAB recommendations – Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said the N&MHAPUC reported that at the last meeting on Oct. 23, a group from Madaket tried unsuccessfully to expand the work area for Madaket Harbor. He added that the committee would be reviewing the matrix of recommendations

from the 2009 plan one more time and that at the committee's next meeting on Nov. 6, the Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) would be sharing some early drafts of certain parts of the new plan for the committee to review. He added that UHI continues to schedule interviews of Nantucketers interested in contributing their input for the new plan.

Sediment Transport Study and dredge plan – Discussion

Mr. Lowell said that he helped Ms. Lucey connect with the consultants on this effort so she can contribute her expertise. Mr. Lowell expressed his desire get up to date himself. Mr. Brace said he would arrange for NRD Sustainability Coordinator Vince Murphy to give the HSAB an update on the consultants' work on this issue when he has information to give. Ms. Riley reported that the consultants are still collecting data and there is still plenty of time to ensure that the HSAB is properly informed on this issue.

Dumpster sticker distribution – Discussion

Mr. Lowell said he is working on getting people organized to start putting the stickers on dumpsters around the island. Mr. Brace reported that the new environmental coordinator at the airport, Cameron Wood, offered to put the stickers on dumpsters at the airport.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee – Update

Mr. Brace reported that the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) succeeded the second time around in getting a Municipal Vulnerability grant from the state through the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) for a feasibility study for the recommended downtown storm barrier. He

added that the CRAC is currently working on several public outreach strategies.

Mr. Lowell said the conceptual idea of a barrier out in the harbor seems like a great idea that he's come around to. He added that he expressed his appreciation for the amount of work Mr. Brace has done to get the word out on the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) and for the challenges the CRAC faces in reaching out to the public.

Mr. Brace clarified for the HSAB that the barrier Mr. Lowell is just a concept and that the 40 recommendations are an actionable proposal that the Town is working on implementing toward the cause of making Nantucket resilient to sea level rise.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

No public comments.

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Brace said he would email Erika Mooney to see if the meeting trailer is available on Oct. 31, 2023 for the HSAB to hold a meeting.

Mr. Fronzuto said he wanted to add an item to the next HSAB meeting's agenda for discussion on two critical waterfront infrastructure proposals including a solid fill pier on the west side of the west jetty as an alternate ferry landing structure and use of Petrel Landing for more dinghy dock space and commercial boat use. He also requested an agenda item for increasing the ferry embarkation fee from 50¢ to 75¢ or \$1 to generate around \$2.5 million annually. He added that he wants to have a discussion on the money always being used to fund summer police specials directing traffic around ferry terminals instead of being used for its intended purpose of waterways infrastructure improvements. He added that he also wants to discuss returning the Marine Department to its own entity by removing it from the police department.

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 6-0, at 6:44 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

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

Future Meetings:

Nov. 7 and Nov. 21

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary