

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Trailer, 131 Pleasant St.

Via Zoom

***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

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

Members Absent: Dave Fronzuto, Jim Sjolund

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others:

CALL TO ORDER

5:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Bossi made that motion and Mr. Anderson seconded it. The HSAB voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Dec. 5, 2023

Mr. Brace reported that these minutes weren't completed yet.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

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 she had a short report. She said she and her staff ripped out the hatchery ceiling because of water damage to the drywall sheathing. She added that the second algae bioreactor had yet to arrive. Ms. Riley reported that she and Samantha Denette of the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) met recently to plan the moving of seed from Bass Shoal in Nantucket Harbor to three or four different parts of Madaket Harbor. The current cold weather, she added, will likely push this project into March. Ms. Riley reported a stranding of around 250,000 seed scallops up in Wauwinet, but she and her crew weren't able to rescue those scallops because the road to the beach was flooded. Ms. Riley reported that she and her hatchery staff would be attending the Northeast Aquaculture Conference in Providence, R.I. Jan. 9-11, 2024. She reported that the scallopers haven't lost any days to inclement weather yet. Ms. Riley also reported that she didn't have a bushel count for total bushels caught yet.

Ms. Andrews said salt water doesn't real start to thicken until it reaches 28 degrees, so Ms. Riley would be safe moving seed with air temperatures in the 30s and up.

The HSAB offered possible solutions for redoing the ceiling in the hatchery.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Seed management and red flag days – Discussion

Mr. Lowell updated and recapped this item for the board. He reported that there could be challenges issuing checks from the Natural Resources Department (NRD) to commercial scallopers. He added that this could mean returning to the voucher program. He said the NSA wants to be involved and help find a solution. Mt. Bossi said up to \$850 can be paid by the Town to fishermen before

the Town has to send them a form 1099. Ms. Andrews said maybe the Town could make a donation to this effort for moving seed when it happens. Mr. Lowell said that more discussion with the NRD and Town Administration is needed before the board can move forward. He said he want the board's approval to table this item until it can get more information on this idea of putting in article on the warrant for the 2024 annual Town Meeting. Mr. Bossi made this motion and Mr. Anderson seconded it. The board voted 5-0 to hold off pursuing this article.

Harbor watershed outreach & ideas – Set workshop date

The HSAB agreed to pick a date in the near future for holding this workshop on creating a presentation.

Green crabs

Mr. Anderson didn't have much to report on this topic.

Harbor Action Plan recommendations; ferry embarkation fee, alternate ferry pier, Petrel Landing

Mr. Bossi said the board should wait until Mr. Fronzuto is in attendance before discussing this item. Mr. Brace reported that the Nantucket Islands Land Bank got a decision in its favor on its proposed redevelopment of Petrel Landing. Mr. Brace didn't have any more details on this.

Removing Marine Department from Police Department jurisdiction

The board engaged in a discussion on the possibilities of separating the Marine Department from the Police Department.

Scallop shell pile hazards – Discussion

The HSAB discussed possible ways to deal with the liquid flowing from this pile across Madaket Road, freezing from time to time and causing a hazard on that part of the road. Mr. Anderson

volunteered to contact the Department of Public Works to see it could fix this situation.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Returning scallop shells to harbor for calcium contribution – Discussion

Mr. Lowell said this suggestion is from Mr. Sjolund who feels that the shells would recharge the harbors with calcium.

Ms. Riley said that she is hoping to start another oyster restoration project that would use scallop shells as a base in the harbor. She added that the NRD has around 200,000 pounds of scallop shells it can use right now and another 60,000 to 70,000 pounds still curing at the landfill. All of this would be enough for a one-acre oyster restoration. Ms. Riley said putting the shells in the harbor is good for it and “buffers” it. Mr. Lowell said it would be good for the HSAB to if Public Works can spare this amount of scallop shells because it does use them to resurface several roads around the island. Ms. Andrews asked if scallops contained the same level of calcium in them as oysters. Ms. Riley didn't have an answer at this meeting.

High speed ferry traffic impacting scallop beds – Discussion

The HSAB agreed that Mr. Lowell would contact Ms. Lucey to ask her to call the ferry companies servicing Nantucket with fast ferries to get them to have their captains throttle back inbound before they reach the cut in the East Jetty and outbound not throttle up until they're past the cut in the East Jetty. Ms. Riley said she would like to see the no-wake zone extended to Nantucket Sound end of the jetties. She added that she feels the clouding of the water in the harbor, a measure of the “turbidity”, water clarity, and the filling in of the eelgrass beds at the Horse Shed is a major problem. She

added that a solution for this needs to be put into the update of the harbor plan going on now.

Mr. Lowell noted that the Steamship Authority's vehicle ferry slows down much sooner coming into the harbor. The HSAB agreed that pursuing multiple avenues toward getting the fast ferries to slow down coming into and leaving the harbor should be the way to handle this issue including inserting a mention of this into the updated harbor plan, Mr. Lowell contacting Ms. Lucey and the HSAB sending letters to the ferry companies.

HSAB semi-regular report to the Select Board – Discussion

Mr. Brace explain this report that the HSAB did around 18 months ago and said he recommended doing this again. Mr. Bossi suggested the report be more streamlined with short bullet items, He added that he liked this idea and that the board should be sending these reports more regularly. Mr. Brace said he would write up a draft for the next meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Anderson made that motion and Mr. Brace seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 5-0 at 6:07 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAEL5dttIEo&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=4>

Future Meetings:

Jan. 16 and Feb. 6

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter B. Brace, Secretary