

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

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

Members Absent: Jim Sjolund

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier, Samantha Denette

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lowell the script for remotely conducted open meetings.

Mr. Lowell called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Anderson made motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Andrews seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Feb. 20, 2024

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms.

Andrews seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 5-0, with Mr. Lowell abstaining, to approve the minutes.

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 and her hatchery staff are planning for summer and also focusing on pond opening this month. She added that she'd also working on getting contracts set for benthic surveys and water quality sampling/analysis for the next three years. Ms. Riley said this week they're going out to evaluate the amount of seed on Bass Shoal to determine if it needs to be moved or should remain in place. She added that the hatchery took delivery of its second algae bioreactor.. Ms. Riley said she hopes to expand the water quality program this year by adding February, April, September and November this year for better year-round picture. She added that she'll also be adding some sampling locations closer to shore to compare with locations in deeper water that she's been sampling regularly. Ms. Riley reported that the hatchery is growing out stout razor clams, blood ark clams and quahogs. Mr. Lowell asked if the hatchery had hired all its staff for the season. Ms. Riley said she is fully staffed with interns arriving at the end of May. Mr. Brace asked if there is a market for blood arks and razor clams. Ms. Riley indicated that there are markets mostly on Cape Cod.

Ms. Andrews said she was very interested in there being a market for razor clams and looking forward to hearing how this works out.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Seed management - Discussion

Ms. Riley said she and her crew will be looking at all the sites where they moved seed from strandings to in the fall to see how the scallops in these locations are faring. Mr. Anderson asked if Ms. Riley had a bushel count update. Ms. Riley said catch reports were coming in from scallopers, but they hadn't been totaled yet. Mr. Lowell asked if there would more days when the bay scallop fishery would be closed down for seed moving. Ms. Riley said there probably wouldn't be. Ms. Riley reported there was still a maximum of eight commercial scallop boats fishing now.

Harbor watershed public information outreach ideas – Discussion

Mr. Anderson volunteered to take this project on, reach out to Jennifer Christianson at Nantucket Public Schools and get the PowerPoint presentation from Mr. Fronzuto. He said he would report back to the HSAB.

Harbors Action Plan Committee HSAB recommendations:

Mr. Froznuto asked if Mr. Anderson had any new information on green crabs that he wanted to add to his original report that was sent to the Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee (NMHAPUC). Mr. Anderson said the Toscana Corp is still accepting the crabs from the fishermen catching them and dropping them off.

Mr. Fronzuto reported that there is not enough educational information being handed out where shellfish permits are sold, that these permits need to be sold at the Natural Resources Department (NRD) and that there needs to be part-time shellfish wardens working during the summer and early part of the recreational scallop season. Mr. Fronzuto reported the NMHAPUC would be holding a joint meeting with the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) to get input from CRAC on how to make the updated harbor plan and the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) work together.

Removing Marine Department from Police Department administrative jurisdiction

Mr. Fronzuto reported that the NMHAPUC voted to support this effort, which would place this Marine Department under the supervision of the Town Manager. Mr. Bossi agreed that the HSAB had voted to support this. Mr. Fronzuto said Ms. Lucey has asked to have herself removed from the union. Mr. Brace suggested that Ms. Lucey come to a HSAB meeting to explain this effort to the board herself. Mr. Fronzuto agreed and added that getting these item into the harbor plan means that they'll get actuated instead of being stuck in folder on the shelf.

Petrel Landing

Mr. Fronzuto said that he wanted to ensure that extra dinghy space be created at this location. Mr. Lowell decried the lack of space at Petrel Landing for commercial fisheries space. Mr. Bossi said that the HSAB has discussed this matter and made its recommendation to the Nantucket Islands Land Bank. He added that he wants to get the NMHAPUC to add the HSAB's recommendations to the Land Bank on Petrel Landing to the harbor plan. Mr. Brace said the Land Bank still has the HSAB's Petrel Landing recommendation letter and that the Land Bank's executive director Jesse Bell is member of the NMHAPUC, so she hears what is being said about Petrel Landing.

Ferry embarkation fee increase

Mr. Fronzuto said he would resend his recommendations on this item and the one below to the board so that the HSAB could help him refine recommendations for these items that will be sent to the NMHAPUC for inclusion in the updated harbor plan.

Alternate pier/boat ramp at West Jetty

See the above item.

Speeding ferries letter – Discussion

Mr. Brace said he hadn't sent the letter yet because he didn't know if the board had approved the version of the letter that Libby Gibson had edited. Mr. Bossi said he thought the HSAB had already approved this version of the letter. To make sure that the HSAB did this, Mr. Bossi made a motion to approve the letter as edited by Ms. Gibson. Mr. Anderson seconded that motion but with two modifications, the removal of the second mention of Mr. Bossi's name at the bottom of the letter and adding the initial A in Mr. Anderson's name. The board voted 6-0 to approve the letter and have Mr. Brace send the letter. Mr. Denette asked that the edited letter be sent to her. She also said she wanted to make sure that Ms. Lucey is notified that the HSAB is going to send this letter. Mr. Brace said he would email or text Ms. Lucey.

Scallop shell pile hazards at landfill – Update

Mr. Anderson reported that the Department of Public Works (DPW) have pushed the scallop shell further back away from Madaket Road. He added that he would be taking photos of the area to document how this issue is being dealt with by the DPW

Clarification of red-flag days protocol, identification of official harbor thermometer and shellfish warden-fishermen communication – Update from Natural Resources Department

Mr. Lowell asked for an update from Ms. Riley on whether the temperature app sponsored by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) had been made the NRD's policy yet. Ms. Riley said that NRD director Jeff Carlson told her that he wanted to make the official air temperature app part of the shellfish regulations. She added that she would get further clarification from Mr. Carlson. Mr. Brace said he recalled Mr. Carlson saying at the recent HSAB meeting during the discussion on choosing the most accurate, universally used air temperature app that this was a simple policy change and that all he needed to do was inform all scallopers of this change to make this happen. Mr. Fronzuto said he felt that a determination was to be made

about this issue after the HSAB's meeting. Mr. Bossi said he recalled that the NOAA app was what the board and those in attendance at that meeting had chosen. He said the board and the NRD needed to get this done and move on. Mr. Lowell agreed, adding that communication between all parties is key. He said that considering there are just three weeks left of the scallop season, he hoped the NOAA app would be the policy the 2024/2025 commercial scallop season. Ms. Riley said she would work with the shellfish warden, JC Johnson, to get the word out ASAP for the remainder of the season that the NOAA app is what to use for air temperature.

Semi-regular HSAB report - Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said the report should be corrected so that the mention of the HSAB reviewing the Town's aquaculture regulations actually reads "shellfish regulations".

Mr. Brace said he would get into a regular routine of doing a report every three or four months. Mr. Anderson made a motion to send the report to the Select Board. Mr. Bossi seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 to send this report to the Select Board.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Aquaculture regulations review – Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto suggested tackling this item in a workshop format at the March 19, 2024 meeting. The board agreed to do this.

Madaket Ditch and Long Pond high water level – Discussion

Mr. Anderson said it seems that the water level of Madaket Ditch is very high lately, possibly due to the ditch or the culvert under Madaket Road being clogged with debris. Ms. Andrews said Long Pond is tidal all the way up into North Head of Long Pond and said

the fullness of the ditch has more to do with the tides and the moon, and the amount of rainfall. Mr. Brace attempted to explain how the Town had tried to clean out the mosquito ditches in the salt marshes that feed into the Madaket Ditch. Ms. Andrews explained that the ditch being bigger and wider hasn't necessarily been good for Long Pond. Mr. Brace explained that one of the near-term projects within the Coastal Resilience Plan is to raise Madaket Road from office entrance of the landfill to just past Second Bridge and to replace the culverts at First and Second bridges with actual bridges. Ms. Andrews said that the water level of the ditch does drop, but the phases of the moon and the tides of the ocean also have to coincide with less rainfall. She added that this doesn't happen very fast and that it's also do to the opening between Whale Point on Tuckernuck Island and Smith's Point being narrower than it's been over time.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brace made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Anderson seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 at 6:43 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RDDngzbYuM&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

March 19 and April 2

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary

