

Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee

Monday, Dec. 4, 2023 at 5 p.m.

Meeting trailer, 131 Pleasant St., Nantucket, MA 02554

***NMHAPUC meetings are video-recorded and available at Nantucket Government TV on YouTube**

Members present: Linda Williams (chairman), Phil Smith (vice chairman), Dave Fronzuto, Roberto Santamaria, Steve Lienbach, Samantha Denette, Jesse Bell, Seth Engelbourg

Members Absent: Peter Brace, Emily Molden

Natural Resources Dept (NRD): Jeff Carlson, Tara Riley

Urban Harbors Institute (UHI): Jack Wiggins, Kim Starbuck, Kristin Uiterwyk, Alan Bartels, Stuart Dack

Others:

CALL TO ORDER

1:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 6-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Denette and Ms. Bell joined the meeting at approximately 1:10 p.m.

Minutes not completed yet.

1. WELCOME

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order and read the script for remotely conducted open meetings.

2. Natural resources goals, objectives, and recommendations (Kim Starbuck/All)

Ms. Williams asked if the committee could start planning to go through each section, one per meeting. Ms. Starbuck confirmed that this is her plan. She added that two per meeting might be possible but that for those sections currently ready, she wanted to start getting some feedback from the committee. Ms. Williams requested that each completed section be sent to the committee prior to the meeting it's slated to be discussed at. Ms. Starbuck said she would do this. Mr. Smith suggested also sending out the respective sections of the matrix as well for future meetings. Ms. Starbuck said going line by line with the matrix would be very time-consuming. He added that the committee should use the matrix as a starting point and that it should be in front of the committee at all times. Ms. Uiterwyk recommended "thinking about the old matrix in the context of the new recommendations that are being made." Ms. Bell asked for clarification of how this process would work. Mr. Smith suggested starting with the natural resources section at the Dec. 18, 2023 meeting. Ms. Starbuck suggested that she identify references from the matrix that are in the updated plan's sections so the new plan doesn't look like the old plan. She added that she was ready to go with the natural resources section using this

approach, but Ms. Williams and Mr. Smith said they weren't ready, that they hadn't looked at it yet.

Ms. Starbuck shared her PowerPoint presentation to show the committee her approach for reviewing the eight sections. She explained that eelgrass decline, salt marsh decline, invasive species, enforcement of environmental regulations, growing population island causing strain on natural resources, bird nuisance species and aquaculture, and putting water quality in a different section were the main issues under the natural resources heading. She then asked if these sounded correct.

3. Possible additional topics to discuss

Mr. Engelbourg suggested adding climate change, sea level rise, ocean acidification. He added that bird nuisance species needs to be moved to the fishing section. He added that rare and protected bird species should be considered for this section. Mr. Leinbach said bird poop should fall under "bird nuisance species". Mr. Englebourg said this could all under water quality.

Ms. Starbuck said that all of these topics are in the current plan and that no big topics have been lost from that plan. She asked for any other big issues that belong in natural resources.

Ms. Denette suggested that the committee pull back and consider all the categories (sections) in new plan before moving forward with the review of each as draft written by the Urban Harbors Institute staff. Ms. Starbuck listed them for the committee.

Ms. Denette and Ms. Williams suggested an outline or table of contents be created by Urban Harbors so the draft plan as its written is well organized for the committee's review. Ms. Starbuck said they could generate a table of contents that lists all of the main issues under each category by the Dec. 18 meeting.

Ms. Starbuck asked if it's useful to generate solutions to the issues right now? Mr. Smith, Ms. Williams and Mr. Fronzuto liked this idea and the format. Ms. Starbuck said she would send the committee the big themes she's seeing for natural resources so it could then generate more ideas to include for the Dec. 18 meeting.

The committee agreed that the island's current Environmental Police Officer, David Wright, attend a future committee meeting to help the committee with enforcement questions for the plan.

Mr. Leinbach asked Mr. Fronzuto if the Marine Department's budget would change in regards to enforcement capabilities if the Marine Department was removed from the Police Department. Mr. Fronzuto indicated that the Marine Department's budget probably wouldn't change. He explained that the Marine Department is a standalone budget approved annually at Town Meeting. Mr. Carlson suggested making this topic an agenda item for the next meeting if the committee felt it needed more discussion on the issue.

Ms. Bell asked how competing priorities in the plan would be reconciled and not become mutually exclusive. Ms. Starbuck said these conflicts of competing interests can be dealt with by the committee as it moves through reviewing the draft plan.

4. Next steps (All)

Ms. Starbuck said she could do her suggested table of contents idea for the next meeting. Mr. Smith suggested that the committee try it for the Dec. 18 meeting and if this system

of draft plan review works for the committee, it could then elect to continue with review of the draft plan in this way. He added that Urban Harbors needs to include in the narrative of the updated plan mentions of what was carried forward from the old plan into the new one.

Mr. Fronzuto asked if Mr. Carlson had distributed the materials he sent to him on an alternate ferry pier that could be sited inside and along the west jetty. Ms. Starbuck said she would send this information out to the committee.

Mr. Fronzuto said the ferry embarkation fee revenues are not being properly reported and that he is proposing to increase it from 50¢ to \$1 per person per trip. Ms. Williams said the last time this issue was brought up, there was a lot of blow-back on making changes.

Mr. Fronzuto said the issue has never been discussed in public before.

Ms. Bell asked for an explanation of how the committee will review completed items in the draft plan as it evolves. Ms. Uiterwyk said Urban Harbors would ensure that the committee would be well prepared for the next meeting with the discussed table of contents protocol for review.

Next committee meeting

Dec. 18, 2023

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 8-0.

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YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwfw86mUHoU&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhtfTnajKC38HEDIJx7asi0&index=16>

Future Meetings:

Dec. 18 and Jan. 8

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary