

**Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update
Committee**

Monday, Dec. 18, 2023 at 1 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 (Chair), Phil Smith (Vice chair), Samantha Denette, Seth Engelbourg, Peter Brace, Steve Leinbach, Emily Molden

Members Absent: Jesse Bell, Dave Fronzuto, Roberto Santamaria

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

Urban Harbors Institute (UHI): Jack Wiggin, Kim Starbuck, Kristin Uiterwyk, Dack Stuart

Others: Steve McKenna, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

CALL TO ORDER

1:01 p.m.

1. WELCOME

Ms. Williams read the script for remotely conducted open meetings.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Williams asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Smith obliged and Ms. Denette seconded that motion. The NMHAPUC unanimously approved, 8-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes not completed yet

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSS PLAN TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ms. Starbuck reported that she and her UHI staff assembled a draft table of contents, saying that right now, this exercise is for identifying the main topics for the plan. She added that she wanted to ensure this format worked for the committee. She also produced a matrix of recommended action items, which can be added to as the NMHAPUC goes through the plan.

Mr. Wiggin said the design of the draft table of contents serves to show where UHI thinks the different issues belong in the plan knowing that their locations will be changed by the committee as needed. Ms. William asked if the issues from the current plan that the committee still needs to deal with are included. Ms. Starbuck said they are because the general themes are roughly the same between the two plans.

Mr. Smith asked how the plan will look when it's done. Ms. Starbuck said this draft is very rough and not refined yet. Ms. Williams surmised that Mr. Smith was looking for an implementation plan. She added that the NMHAPUC should build in an implementation matrix to cover all the action items so the implementation committee knows what the NMHAPUC was thinking for each item's recommended implementation.

Mr. Brace joined the meeting at approximately 1:20 p.m.

Mr. Wiggin and Ms. Starbuck explained that under each of the main topics they've put all of the proposed action items. They added that they're asking the NMHAPUC members to go through these with them over the course of the winter to refine or remove these items to essentially create the updated plan.

Ms. Starbuck asked if this approach worked for the committee or if going topic by topic would work better starting with Natural Resources. Mr. Smith said the NMHAPUC would be deciding what the action is and then picking the entity to make it happen and asked if he was correct. Ms. Starbuck confirmed this. Mr. Carlson said the plan will be adopted by the Select Board, which brings increases the "level of accountability" meaning the action items will eventually be implemented. Mr. Leinbach asked how long the state takes to adopt the finished plan. Mr. McKenna said it

would take around two months after the Select Board approves the plan.

Ms. Starbuck asked the NMHAPUC how it wanted to proceed. Ms. Molden said the NMHAPUC should just get into the matrix as prepared right now.

3. Discuss issues and recommendations

a. Natural resources

The NMHAPUC agreed to start going through the Natural Resources section to see if anything is missing from the 2009 plan. Ms. Starbuck said they would start with the paragraph on dealing with the decline in eelgrass and the possibility of creating an eelgrass management plan. Ms. Molden agreed that this recommendations should be made and that long-term monitoring should be included with this recommendation. Mr. Carlson said the Natural Resources Department would be able to put together the eelgrass management plan. Ms. Riley said she wrote a rudimentary eelgrass management plan, a very rough draft, last winter that needs to be fleshed out with the help of outside consultants.

Ms. Starbuck said there are eelgrass management plans available for Ms. Riley to refer to for guidance in finalizing Nantucket's plan. Ms. Williams couldn't stress enough the importance of working fertilizer use controls into the updated harbor plan. Ms. Molden said agreed with Ms. Williams, adding that continuing with public education and outreach on this issue. Mr. Engelbourg reported that a fertilizer ban on Nantucket is "effectively dead" without more Town Meeting efforts going forward. Mr. Leinbach agreed with creating an eelgrass management plan, adding that there's no need to add more moorings in the harbor.

Ms. Starbuck asked for comments on salt marsh issues, reading this item to the NMHAPUC first. Ms. Molden said long term monitoring of salt marshes should be encouraged by having

such an item inserted into the plan and pointed to monitoring now being conducted by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF). Ms. Williams added that private property owners of salt marshes need to be urged to do the same. Mr. Leinbach noted that island salt marsh migration will become an issue that should be included in the plan. Mr. Brace said the Conservation Commission's proposed amendment to its Nantucket Wetlands Bylaw that would increase no-build buffer zones around salt marshes from 25 feet to 50 should be included in the updated plan. Ms. Williams said this amendment was dead. Mr. Engelbourg said the ConCom would eventually be reviewing this proposed amendment. Mr. Carlson said this item belongs in #8 in this section.

Ms. Starbuck detailed the next section within Natural Resources, Invasive Species, for the NMHAPUC and the committee revised this language. Mr. Brace said the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative (NBI) has an invasive plant species subcommittee that could help the NMHAPUC with this item. Mr. Engelbourg agreed and added that the aquatic threats committee of NBI could also help with this. Ms. Molden asked what was meant by "plant more native species" meant. Mr. Engelbourg clarified that it should read promote more native plant species. Ms. Molden said recommending monitoring and awareness programs on potential new species entering the harbor should be included.

b. Commercial waterfront

c. Coordination and administration

4. Next steps (All)

Starbuck said the NMHAPUC would get into Commercial Waterfront at the next meeting.

a. Next committee meeting

Ms. Starbuck said the next meeting is Jan. 8, 2024.

ADJOURN

Ms. Williams called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brace made that motion. Samantha Denette seconded Mr. Brace's motion. The NMHAPUC voted 7-0 at 2:02 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYJ6xYegoEg&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhtfTnajKC38HEDIJx7asi0&index=17>

Future Meetings:

Jan. 8 and Jan. 22

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary