

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

Monday, Feb. 12, 2024 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: Phil Smith, Seth Engelbourg, Samantha Denette, Jesse Bell, Steve Leinbach, Peter Brace, Emily Molden, Roberto Santamaria

Members Absent: Linda Williams, Dave Fronzuto

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

Urban Harbors Institute (UHI): Jack Wiggin, Kim Starbuck, Alan Bartels, Dack Stuart, Shannon Hogan

Others: Matt Haffenreffer

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. WELCOME

Mr. Smith read the script for remotely conducted public meetings.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Brace made that motion and Mr. Santamaria seconded this motion. The NMHAPUC voted 8-0 to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes of Feb. 5, 2024. Mr. Santamaria made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Smith seconded that motion. The NMHAPUC voted 8-0 to approve the minutes.

2. DISCUSS ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Coordination and administration

Mr. Wiggin explained the procedure for going through this draft section and there is no such section in the 2009 plan, and that what is in the current recommendations. The first recommendation considered today is to make the Marine Department its own entity separate from the Nantucket Police Department (NPD). Mr. Wiggin explained when the two departments merged.

Mr. Carlson said Mr. Fronzuto would be joining the meeting later, so the NMHAPUC should wait until he's in attendance. Mr. Wiggin moved the discussion on to Item # 3, increasing funding sources to support the harbormaster and enforcement by the Marine Department.

Mr. Brace noted that the Select Board is currently discussing an article for Town Meeting to raise the embarkation fee from 50¢ to \$2. Mr. Carlson said the Town, with Tisbury, MA are working to possibly getting the state legislature to make this increase. Mr. Leinbach reminded the NMHAPUC that the Town could raise this fee up to \$1 on its own but that beyond that, the state would have to make this change. Mr. Wiggin explained how the revenue from this fee can be spent.

Mr. Brace asked if the Marine Department broke away from the NPD, wouldn't the Town create a budget solely for the Marine Department and separate from the NPD? Mr. Carlson said yes. Mr. Carlson recommended that harbormaster Sheila Lucey be present for this discussion ASAP. Ms. Bell asked about the Nantucket Land Bank (NLB) reference. Mr. Wiggin explained it was a question on the Land Bank being a potential source of funding for supporting the Marine Department. Mr. Wiggin noted that Hawaii has a public lands/facilities usage fee for visitors, a visitors' use impact fee. Mr. Engelbourg said he's against such a fee because Nantucket being an anomaly of free access to the shoreline should always remain as such.

Mr. Wiggin moved to the next item, which is ensuring the implementation of the NMHAP and explained that such an implementation committee would need to be created for this

purpose, noting that 2009 plan had an implementation committee. Mr. Brace said the NMHAPUC could review the completed plan update to identify the entities to actuate the recommendations in the plan and agreed that an implementation committee is needed. Mr. Carlson suggested that the Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board (HSAB) be the implementation committee. Mr. Engelbourg said the HSAB definitely needs to be asked about this idea before the NMHAPUC pursues it. Ms. Molden said there should be a “direct link” between the NMHAPUC and whatever implementation committee is formed. Mr. Brace said that there were some members of HSAB on this committee as well as at-large members, so these other people would then have to be added to the HSAB along with representatives from other harbors-related stakeholders. Ms. Denette agreed with Mr. Brace in that this task would be too large for the HSAB to handle by itself. She asked if the recommendations in the plan could be handed out to different implementation committee members for them to work on. Mr. Brace said the 2009 committee worked well together and that assigning the tasks to individual members would mean not everyone on the committee contribute to making each recommendation happen. Mr. Brace asked the UHI staff for insight on how other municipalities implement their harbor plans. Mr. Wiggin said some created implementation committees and that success happens as long as these committees maintain their motivation and enthusiasm for making the recommendations happen over time.

Mr. Wiggin moved on to recommendation seven, environmental educational materials for new land owners. Ms. Starbuck said the NMHAPUC should think about how this would be combined into a package of all educational materials for all of the recommendations in this plan. Ms. Molden asked if this would be separate from a boater’s guide. Mr. Carlson said there need to be different individual educational guides for different groups. Mr. Brace said the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) is helping the realtors on Nantucket add relevant need-to-know sea level rise

information to the annual course they're all required to take so they stay up to date on information they're required to disclose to potential property buyers. He added that the NMHAPUC could generate similar educational materials for new land owners. Ms. Molden agreed that there should definitely be such materials created. Ms. Denette asked how would this effort be funded. Mr. Wiggin said this funding requirement would become part of this recommendation.

Mr. Wiggin moved on to number eight, which called for the Chapter 91 licenses available to the public including a map showing all public access points are along the shore. Ms. Denette said all anchorages should be included on this map. Ms. Molden agreed with this idea. Mr. Smith suggested that the Roads & Right of Ways Committee could be helpful with this recommendation. Mr. Wiggin introduced recommendation nine on dealing with the increasing number of barges using Steamboat Wharf and the tugboats' engines remaining on with propellers turning to keep the barges in place causing surface turbulence and silting over of marine bottom habitat. Ms. Denette said the scope of jurisdiction for this should include more of the harbor. Mr. Wiggin asked who he should contact for jurisdiction questions on this recommendation. Mr. Brace suggested Ms. Lucey, the harbormaster.

Mr. Wiggin moved onto the next recommendation, number 10, the proposed Coastal Resiliency Districts (CRD). Mr. Brace there is a couple article on the warrant for Town Meeting in May.

Mr. Wiggin said the UHI staff will ensure that the NMHAP is consistent with area plans that overlap the study areas of the two harbors, and with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Engelbourg said he could speak with Mr. Wiggin if he had any questions on this.

b. Commercial and recreational fishing

Ms. Hogan read the main goal of this section to the NMHAPUC.

Ms. Hogan read the recommendations for this section from the 2009 plan. She said she would be writing a recommendation for

updating the Shellfish Management Plan (SMP). Ms. Smith if the Great Harbor Yacht Club (GHYC) could help financially with these through its' \$35,000 annual grant. Mr. Brace explained that this grant had expired. Ms. Molden said that 2021 probably was the last year of the grant. Mr. Carlson and Ms. Riley explained that there are a number of grant funding sources locally. Ms. Riley said on the SMP update, the creation of an implementation process for this update needs to be included.

Ms. Hogan read the recommendations of the second goal of supporting shellfishing and finfishing. Mr. Smith said that Nantucket Community Sailing worked a deal with the Town to have a property off Bunker Road for maintenance and repair of boats. He recommended that the NMHAPUC support this. Mr. Carlson said that the Marine Department has a similar property where a building is being built for maintenance of the Marine Department's boats and equipment.

Ms. Hogan moved onto issues and recommendations for the NMHAPUC generated at the public input sessions in 2023.

The first recommendation is the need for a commercial pier. The second is a way to get more commercial fishing activity in the boat basin or at the Town Pier. Mr. Leinbach said this language needs to be clarified because there is such space at the end of the Town Pier right now.

Ms. Hogan said the third recommendation asks how to get more younger people into the bay scallop fishery and how to keep this fishery going. Mr. Engelbourg mentioned the Innovative Pathways Program, which has a maritime studies component that he felt the NMHAPUC could engage with in updating the plan. He said this should be a point of contact for new shellfishers. Mr. Brace said the Town's shellfish apprentice program requiring new scallopers to fish with an experienced scalloper for 40 days before being allowed to fish on their own needs to be in this recommendation.

Ms. Bell left the meeting at approximately 2:25 p.m.

Ms. Hogan details the next recommendation on the issue of shellfish bed closures in the context of boats with holding tanks

clustered together in the mooring field, which the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) bases its seasonal closure of these beds on. The NMHAPUC decided to continue discussion to the March 4, 2024 meeting

3. NEXT STEPS (ALL)

a. Next committee meeting

ADJOURN

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Santamaria made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded that motion. The NMHAPUC voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-ACh5q_gaM&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhtfTnajKC38HEDIJx7asi0&index=21

Future Meetings:

March 4 and March 18

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary