

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Dave Fronzuto, Dave Bossi, Peter Brace, Jim Sjolund, Jim Sjolund, Scott Anderson

Members Absent:

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley, Vince Murphy

Others: Irene Watts, Jason Graziadei, Jesse Sandole, Ellen Mayo, Mary Tuck

CALL TO ORDER

5:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Bossi seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 7-0 to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Sept. 3, 2024

Mr. Brace reported that he had yet to complete the Sept. 3, 2024 minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Select Board public hearing on proposed amendment to shellfish regulations to allow the lowering or raising of the commercial bay scallop bushel limit.

Mr. Lowell announced this public hearing scheduled for Oct. 16, 2024

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that her staff recently completed its fall dive surveys of the bottoms of Nantucket and Madaket Harbors, and Tuckernuck (first year for Tuckernuck to establish baseline data between Madaket Harbor and Tuckernuck).

Ms. Riley reported the hatchery staff has around 300,000 quahog seed ready for release into the harbor or into bottom grow-out trays. She added that on Oct. 7, she and her staff will be planting eelgrass, grown at the hatchery, with the Nantucket Land & Water Council (NLWC) on Hussey Shoal. Mr. DeCosta said he wanted to keep discussion on raising or lowering the bushel limit or lowering it on future agendas. He added that he'll take all of the green crabs people want to give him for bait for fishing. Ms. Riley reported that surprisingly, she didn't see a lot of green crabs during her recent harbor bottom surveys.

Mr. Lowell asked if Ms. Riley knew how many commercial scallop licenses had been purchased for the upcoming season. Ms. Riley did not know. In answer to Mr. Brace's question on her survey results, Ms. Riley added the moving of the huge volumes of seed in harbors last season has translated into lots of adult scallops in the harbors.

Ms. Tuck expressed concern over the potential for contamination of shellfish beds in Nantucket's harbors by debris from the Vineyard Wind wind turbine blade that broke off of a wind turbine during the summer south of Nantucket. Ms. Riley reported that the monthly water quality sampling done during the summer increased to twice a month in September. She added that she is waiting for the results of the tests to be completed by UMass Dartmouth. She added that the bay scallop is safe to eat because only the muscle is consumed. Mr. Lowell asked if Ms. Riley could testing on other

shellfish that people eat entirely to see if they're impacted by potentially ingesting microplastics. Ms. Riley said the hatchery doesn't have this capability.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Sean Fitzgibbon's oyster lease and aquaculture leases in general

No discussion.

Continued review and update of shellfish regulations - Tara Riley

Mr. Riley didn't have any more proposed amendments to the shellfish regulations for the HSAB to discuss. However, Mr. Sjolund read into the record his proposal on compensating commercial scallopers for their seed-moving efforts.

Mr. Lowell noted that the HSAB would discuss this proposal at a future meeting once Ms. Riley has had the chance to mull it over and work up some draft amendment language.

Vineyard Wind and offshore wind in general – Discussion

Mr. Lowell said this discussion is about Vineyard Wind's potential impacts on Nantucket's waters including its harbors. Mr. Bossi said the HSAB shouldn't be making any recommendations to the Select Board on this issue because the Select Board is already well beyond needing the HSAB's input on how to deal with Vineyard Wind. Mr. Brace said he understood Mr. Bossi's comments but said the HSAB should at least have its opinion in writing should the Select Board come to this board for its thoughts. Mr. Fronzuto said the HSAB needs to remind the Select Board who it represents. Mr. Anderson asked if the fishermen had received any monetary compensation from Vineyard Wind. Mr. Lowell said he partially

agreed with Mr. Bossi, but he said the HSAB needed to make sure the Select Board knew how the HSAB felt about the potential impacts Nantucket's fishermen and its waters.

Mr. Sandole of 167 Raw Seafoods explained his group, Keep Nantucket Wild's effort and reasoning for getting the Town to withdraw from the "Good Neighbor Agreement".

Mr. Murphy, Sustainability Project Manager for the Town, explained the reasons for the Good Neighbor Agreement. He said the agreement gives the Town leverage for potential funding sources. Mr. Lowell said with this agreement in place, it means that the Town and the HSAB can't speak or write negatively against Vineyard Wind.

Mr. Sandole offered that leaving the agreement would allow Nantucket to "reframe" its approach dealing with Vineyard Wind and future wind turbine projects near the island. Ms. Tuck continued to push for the halting of the current wind turbine project by Vineyard Wind and preventing those proposed for the near future.

Mr. DeCosta said he is very disappointed that the Town signed the agreement, that there was so little transparency on the process leading up to the signing of the agreement in 2020, and he said he wants the Town to pull out of the agreement. He added that he wants to know what's in this agreement and that the HSAB should not hold back in making a recommendation to the Select Board on future wind turbine projects. He added that the aircraft warning light system is on all night and Vineyard Wind didn't paint the turbines the color they said they would to hide them from view. Further, he advocated for giving Vineyard Wind back the \$16 million it gave Nantucket as part of the agreement.

Mr. Brace suggested that HSAB members come to the next meeting prepared to tell the board what it should put in a letter to the Select Board.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Sediment Transport Study and Dredge Plan – Presentation by Town Sustainability Coordinator Vincent Murphy

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Watts, of Baird Engineering, presented the Sediment Transport Study and Dredge Plan to the HSAB.

Mr. DeCosta asked Ms. Watts for the moon phases occurring when the harbor currents data was collected. Mr. Fronzuto detailed several harbor dredging projects to Ms. Watts.

Ms. Watts noted that there is no source of sand feeding the beaches on the harbor side of Nantucket Harbor.

Mr. Fronzuto asked if Ms. Baird had a model showing water flowing in and out of Hither Creek in Madaket.

Mr. Brace noted that there is a coastal bank running from Monomoy to Wauwinet, which contributes sand to that beach. Mr. Murphy agreed, but added that this isn't a huge source of sand. Mr. Brace explained how the bends of Coatue on that side of the harbor and its points, the cusped spits, contribute a lot of sediment.

Mr. Murphy asked the HSAB members for dredging recommendations in the island's harbors.

The HSAB discussed possible and past dredge sites, where spoils have been and might be deposited.

Mr. Lowell asked several historical sediment transport questions of Mr. Murphy who replied that the model created for this study only encompasses the three-month study period. Mr. Lowell explained the HSAB's proposed pilot project for micro-dredging eelgrass beds that have been smothered with sand. Mr. Murphy said he really liked this idea. Mr. Fronzuto urged Mr. Murphy to consider this idea because the HSAB had worked on it for several years. Mr. Murphy explained that larger dredging projects are the norm in terms of the permitting process and that such smaller non-navigational projects can be challenging to permit.

Mr. DeCosta proposed Hither Creek as a potential navigational channel to be dredged.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Mr. Lowell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeCosta made a motion to adjourn meeting. Mr. Bossi seconded that motion.

The HSAB voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TAruTt3MDc&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

Oct. 15 and Nov. 15

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary