

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

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

Members Absent: Bobby DeCosta

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lowell called the meeting to order at 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 second that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Nov. 19, 2024

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report.

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that over the past two weeks, around 14 totes of bay scallop seed have stranded up at Wauwinet. She added that she and her staff were able to recover around 30 bushels of that seed and return it to the harbor at First Bend.

Ms. Riley reported that the Natural Resources Department (NRD) would be opening Sesachacha Pond on Dec. 4. Riley added that she and her staff are continuing to monitor the bay scallop fishery and prepare for the 2025 hatchery season.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Draft letter to Select Board requesting participation in HSAB-related matters – Appointment

Mr. Lowell explained that Town Administration advised Mr. Lowell that the HSAB should not pursue attendance at Select Board executive sessions but that it was welcome to attend all discussions open to the public. Mr. Brace reported that he sent a letter requesting such participation to Town Administration prior to the meeting.

Advisory to Select Board on Vineyard Wind and wind turbines in general – Discussion

The HSAB discussed authoring a letter that would be sent to the Select Board, state and federal legislative representatives, and the existing off shore wind energy companies operating wind turbine installations and or proposing new ones. The letter would outline

the HSAB's marine environment, fishing-related economic impacts and harbor and ocean impacts. The board also discussed the urgency of getting this letter written and sent out as soon as possible. The HSAB agreed to have individual members send what they want in this letter to Mr. Brace who would then write the letter. The HSAB also agreed to hold a special meeting on Dec. 10 to review and approve the letter.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Bay scallop dredge modifications – Discussion

Mr. Sjolund suggested having no more than six rings deep vertically in the center of a dredge. Mr. Sjolund added that he'd modified his dredges by removing the cutting bar in the front of the dredges and replacing it with a chain, saying that the only issue he felt was relevant was keeping the weight of his dredges under 35 pounds according to the Town's shellfish regulations. Ms. Riley said she would check with shellfish warden JC Johnsen and NRD director Jeff Carlson to make sure these modifications are legal.

Submerged boat wreckage/hazard off Monomoy – Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto reported on behalf of Ms. Lucey that this boat wreck is going to be removed from the harbor as ordered by the court and eventually, the owner is going to be reimbursing the Town for the removal work by the Marine Department. Mr. Fronzuto asked the group how long this boat had been submerged in the harbor. Mr. Sjolund said he would get Bruce Cowan's number to Mr. Fronzuto, as Mr. Cowan likely had the answer to this question.

Draft HSAB annual Town report

The HSAB agreed that this report worked and approved Mr. Brace turning it in to Town Administration.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

No public comments.

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Sjolund asked if the board could briefly discuss his ideas on coupon/vouchers for compensating commercial fishermen for helping to move stranded bay scallop seed. Mr. Lowell said he would allow this brief discussion despite there being no such item listed on the agenda. Mr. Sjolund suggested that tags similar to what are used for lobsters would be used for extra boxes granted by coupon or voucher by the NRD to prevent abuse of this system. Ms. Riley said that there should be a full board and relevant staff, and members of the public to be in attendance to have this discussion.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bossi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 at 5:41 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BnVsoBz6D0&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=4>

Future Meetings:

Dec. 17 and Jan. 7

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary

