

## **Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board**

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Community Room, 4 Fairgrounds Road

\*HSAB meeting are video-recorded

**Members present:** Andy Lowell, Dave Bossi, Peter Brace, Ginger Andrews

**Members Absent:** Dave Fronzuto, Tom Szydowski, Dan Pronk

**Marine Dept:**

**Natural Resources Dept:** Tara Riley, Vincent Murphy

**Others:** Ted Lambrecht, Mary Longacre, Jen Karberg, Trevor Johnson, Kona Hosier, Jim Sjolund

### **CALL TO ORDER**

5:02 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Unanimously approved, 4-0, with the modification that the only item under New Business, “Presentation by Town Coastal Resilience Plan consultant Arcadis”, be taken out of order after Natural Resources Report.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Draft minutes of Jan. 5, 2021**

### **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

### **MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey**

No report. Ms. Lucey not present.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT**

**General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff**

Ms. Riley reported a rough estimate on the number of bushels of bay scallops had been harvested to date at between approximately 4,200 to 5,000 bushels for the 2020-2021 season. She noted that commercial bay scallopers harvested roughly 7,800 bushels during the 2019-2020 season. Ms. Riley added that as of this meeting, scallopers hadn't lost any fishing days to bad weather.

Ms. Riley reported she and her staff are growing algae in the shellfish hatchery and are preparing to bring in bay scallop brood stock in preparation for spawning.

Ms. Riley reported that while attending a virtual forum hosted by the state's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), she learned that the DMF is requiring coastal Massachusetts municipalities to better prevent birds from roosting on floating aquaculture gear, which would in turn, prevent excess input of sea bird guano into harbors. She added that she expects the DMF to follow up with commercial aquaculture operations.

Ms. Andrews didn't think such measures would keep gulls off of the gear. Ms. Riley qualified that mostly terns roost on the gear.

Mr. Brace asked Ms. Riley if there have been any bay scallop harvesting violations. Ms. Riley said she didn't know of any but that she would check with the shellfish warden for the Feb. 2 meeting.

Mr. Brace reported seeing a scallop boat recently dredging for scallops in front of the Wauwinet.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Johnson, senior resilience planner with Arcadis, gave his presentation on the creation of the Town's Coastal Resilience Plan by Arcadis with the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) and then asked for comments and questions. (His presentation can be viewed at this link for the Jan. 19, 2021 HSAB meeting, <https://bit.ly/3oDtuD5>. The presentation begins at about 15:28 minutes in from the start of this meeting).

Mr. Lowell thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation and asked for comments and or questions from the HSAB. He added that he is more aware of how high the tides are reaching these days.

Mr. Brace said one of the HSAB's main concerns is public access to the harbor, specifically, trying to find a location for an emergency boat ramp, adding that seal level rise endangers the existing public boat ramp at Children's Beach and the Great Harbor Yacht Club's boat ramp, Mr. Brace reported to Mr. Johnson the issue of excess sand getting into bay scallops and how this seems to be because the harbor is filling up with sand with eelgrass beds are getting smothered. He added that he is and the Town should be concerned about the impacts on Nantucket Harbor from Coatie and the Haulover being breached and permanently segmented by sea level rise. Mr. Brace said he expects this coastal geological change to have profound impacts on the baby scallop fishery and the oyster farms in the harbor. Mr. Lowell agreed with Mr. Brace's issues for the HSAB.

Mr. Bossi said that Mr. Brace and Mr. Lowell covered most of the HASB's sea level rise issues.

Mr. Brace told Mr. Johnson that preventing hazardous materials from entering the island's harbors is one of the HSAB's main goals. He added his concern that as the harbor water rise, currently shore-bound pollution sources could be mobilized into sea water including soil along the downtown waterfront contaminated with petroleum products.

Ms. Andrews said she considers Nantucket a barrier island constantly moving, meaning it will be quite a challenge to hold it all in place. She also expressed concern for the existence of birds nesting on and using the island's shoreline.

Mr. Johnson said one of the main concepts of the CRP will be to live with the water as it come inland along with keeping the water out of essential parts of the shoreline including the downtown area and beaches.

Ms. Andrews stressed that the importance of maintaining the integrity the island's sewer collection and processing system, and the island's landfill in an effort to keep rising seawater.

Ms. Longacre, chair of the CRAC, explained that the mission of CRAC and the plan is to extend the period of time in which Nantucket can be

enjoyed intact, but she conceded that long term, Nantucket will erode back into the ocean. She added that the CRAC has done some focus meetings on certain parts of the island including Madaket, Tuckernuck and Muskeget, and Head of the Harbor. She offered to hold joint meeting with CRAC and the HSAB.

Mr. Lowell acknowledged the importance of this plan being created and actuated, although he expressed frustration with the prospects of the water rising high enough to damage inland portions of Straight Wharf and wondered aloud about some sort of tide gates to keep the water out. He added that building a “living shoreline” by possibly expanding existing salt marsh should be considered as well.

Mr. Murphy asked to return to the HSAB for a follow-up presentation on the progress of the plan. Mr. Lowell said he would welcome this.

Ms. Longacre informed the HSAB about the CRAC open house and the CRP page on the town’s website.

### **Proposed artificial oyster reef in Polpis Harbor - Presentation**

Dr. Jennifer Karberg, research program supervisor for the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, gave a brief presentation to the HSAB in an effort to secure a letter of support from the board in her efforts to obtain an order of conditions from the Conservation Commission. Working with the Town’s Natural Resources Department, Dr. Karberg wants to install an artificial reef of interlocking concrete blocks on which the NCF would place oysters to help aid in the restoration of nearby Medouie Creek and its salt marsh.

Her presentation is at 1:08 in the Jan. 19, 2021 HSAB meeting at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3oDtuD5>.

Mr. Lowell asked if the NCF had tested for contaminants in the soils in this area. Dr. Karberg said she had not.

Mr. Lowell asked if the oysters liked the concrete “oyster castles” and Dr. Karberg said they took to it quite well.

Ms. Andrews said she liked this proposal. Mr. Bossi also approved of the proposal.

Mr. Brace asked if the HSAB would be directing him to write a letter of support. The board directed Mr. Brace to write this letter in time for its

Feb. 2 meeting at which the HSAB could approve and direct Mr. Brace to send the letter to the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Andrews added that her grandfather used to harvest oysters from Polpis Harbor and said it would be great see the restart of the wild oyster population in this harbor.

Mr. Lowell asked if Dr. Karberg had seen any green crabs in this area. She said yes and added that purple marsh crabs do eat the green crabs.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Live-aboard regulations revisions**

Mr. Lowell reported that he hand-delivered the HSAB's recommended revisions to Ms. Lucey.

### **Land Bank Petrel Landing plans - Update**

Mr. Bossi said the letter still has too strong an emphasis on commercial use of this landing. He said he would send his revisions to Mr. Brace so he could make these changes.

Mr. Brace said he would make these changes.

Mr. Sjolund said the Land Bank needs to make it known that there is a commercial aspect to this dock. He did he would like to see the letter before he comments on it at the Feb. 2 meeting.

Ms. Andrews said the letter should include a statement that the uses of the dinghy dock should prioritize water-dependent uses.

### **Oyster lease permit review – Discussion**

Mr. Lambrecht reported that he is making steady progress getting his oyster boat seaworthy and operational.

### **Excessive sand in scallops/dredging plan - Discussion**

No report.

## **HEALTH OF THE HARBORS**

### **Excessive lawn fertilizer use – Discussion**

No report.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT**

**RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**ADJOURN**

Unanimously approved, 4-0, at 6:47 p.m.

**Future Meetings:**

Feb. 2 and Feb. 16

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter B. Brace, Secretary