

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**\*HSAB meeting are video-recorded and  
available at Nantucket Government TV on YouTube**

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

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

**Marine Dept:**

**Natural Resources Dept:** Tara Riley, Jeff Carlson

**Others:** Kona Hosier

**CALL TO ORDER**

5:06 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Draft minutes of April 20, 2021**

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Election Day reminder: June 15, 2021**

Mr. Lowell reminded the HSAB of the town election date

**Town Meeting reminder: June 5, 2021**

Mr. Lowell reminded the HSAB to attend the upcoming annual  
Town Meeting.

**Election of HSAB officers**

Mr. Lowell asked the board to start considering which of three executive positions the members might want to nominate people for after the town elections on June 15, 202.

### **HSAB summer schedule**

Mr. Lowell asked the HSAB members to think about, for the June 1, 2021 meeting, if they wanted to meet just in July and August.

### **MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

#### **General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey**

No report.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT**

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

Ms. Riley said she felt the harbor water temperature was increasing faster than it had in previous springs, reading 55 degrees Fahrenheit one day and then 61 degrees a few days later.

Mr. Carlson reported that the Natural Resources Department's (NRD) water quality sampling program had begun for the 2021 season. Mr. Carlson reported on the new interactive "Water Quality Analysis & Visualization" map on the NRD's Water Quality page on the Town website at [https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/2129/Water-Quality-Analysis-Visualization#learn\\_more](https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/2129/Water-Quality-Analysis-Visualization#learn_more)

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Update on proposed amendments to boat Airbnb and liveboards regulations**

Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Brace for an update on whether this issue had gone before the Select Board. Mr. Brace said he hadn't heard

of Select Board hearing on the matter. Mr. Carlson confirmed that no hearing date had been set yet.

### **Oyster lease permit revocation: draft letter to Select Board – Discussion**

Mr. Carlson reported that acting on Mr. Lambrecht’s request at a recent Select Board meeting, the Select Board had granted him a 45-day extension to give him more time remove his cages from the harbor. Mr. Carlson said he would be checking on Mr. Lambrecht on May 19 to assess his progress.

Mr. Brace said that Mr. Lambrecht had been afforded plenty of time to remove his oyster cages from the harbor. Ms. Andrews noted that Mr. Lambrecht never “played the COVID card” in explaining why it was taking him a while to get his boat seaworthy and remove his cages from the harbor

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

## **HEALTH OF THE HARBORS**

### **Excessive lawn fertilizer use – Update & discussion**

Ms. Andrews asked Mr. Carlson if the Town could push a less nitrogen-dependent ground cover such as grass mixed with clover. Mr. Carlson said the NRD has explored different seed mixes and some landscapers have explored this idea. He said this is a slowly growing trend he hopes to encourage.

Mr. Lowell asked if fertilizers are the same as cow manure in terms of nitrogen content. Mr. Carlson said nitrogen content can vary in fertilizer sources.

### **FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields**

Mr. Lowell asked for an update on this prohibition, adding that he’s aware of many complaints about it on social media. Mr. Carlson reported that the FDA’s National Shellfish Sanitation Program, which is prohibiting the taking of shellfish in areas where

there are 20 or more moored boats, could soon be granting waivers for certain bodies of water due to a large volume negative feedback on this new program. He added that the boat holding tank pumpout data and the meeting of total maximum daily loads could be used to apply for such waivers from this prohibition. He added that the NRD plans to keep challenging this prohibition with this data so the closed areas can be re-opened.

Ms. Riley confirmed that the Town is trying to prove that such blanket closures aren't necessarily needed in Nantucket's harbors because there might not be the risk the FDA feels there is. Mr. Carlson said it's vital that these closures be based on locally generated scientific data rather than the number of boats in a given area.

Mr. Lowell asked if there is a way to specifically monitor the Horse Shed area for pollution such as bird guano. Mr. Carlson reported fielding tons of calls from people complaining about this closure. He added that this closure would not impact the taking of bay scallops, recreational and commercial.

Mr. Brace said this prohibition doesn't really impact the taking of soft-shell clams because of that limited season nor does the closure really effect Madaket Harbor. Ms. Andrews said that computer algorithms aren't guaranteed to be based on human data entry.

### **Water quality testing during 2nd year of no Figawi - Reminder**

Mr. Brace said he wanted to ensure that sampling is done during the time the Figawi would be happening to capture that data to compare to when this Memorial Day Weekend race returns.

Ms. Riley agreed that this sampling should definitely happen during this period so they can learn how water quality is affected by people returning to normal outdoor activity after COVID.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CRAC meeting recap of May 27 – Discussion**

Mr. Bossi said that his take away from this meeting was how what Martha's Vineyard is doing with dredging to move sand around in its harbors might be applied in Nantucket's harbors.

Ms. Andrews said storm data, water energy, coastal geological forces need to be considered by the Town's coastal resilience consultant, Arcadis. Mr. Brace assured Ms. Andrews that the Coastal Resilience Advisory Board (CRAC) supplied Arcadis with all such reports and studies. Mr. Brace stressed that Coatie is Nantucket's natural protection on its northeast section.

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT**

### **RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING ADJOURN**

Unanimously approved at 6:25 p.m., 4-0.

### **YOUTUBE MEETING LINK**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1XV5\\_Ud\\_-M&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1XV5_Ud_-M&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1)

### **Future Meetings:**

June 1 and 15

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter B. Brace, Secretary