

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded and**
available at Nantucket Government TV on YouTube

Members present: Dave Fronzuto, Dave Bossi, Andy Lowell,
Tom Szydlowski, Peter Brace, Dan Pronk

Members Absent:

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of June 1, 2021

Mr. Brace did not have the minutes completed for this meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Return to in-person meetings - Update

Mr. Brace reported that the HSAB could be meeting via Zoom through Spring 2022.

Election of HSAB officers

The HSAB elected Mr. Lowell as chairman, Mr. Szydlowski as vice chairman and Mr. Brace as secretary.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that the NRD has been monitoring the great ponds weekly and finding minimal evidence of algae blooms. They update the town's website weekly on Fridays. Ms. Riley reported doing microbial source tracking for fecal coliform to determine if the source is human or bird.

Ms. Riley on behalf of NRD's water quality specialist, Thais Fournier reported that Ms. Fournier recently launched a water quality analysis visualization tool on the Natural Resources page of the Town's website. Natural Resources and MIT SEAGRANT collaborated on this tool, which provides site-specific water quality data. Ms. Riley also reported that she is working with this same group to create an overlay for shellfish to show closure area, where it's safe to go for shellfish and permitting information.

Ms. Riley reported that she has applied for a bird deterrent grant on behalf of the oyster farmers to test out various bird deterrents that would be placed on floating oyster cages in Nantucket Harbor in an eventual attempt at decreasing the amount of bird guano entering the harbor.

Ms. Riley reported that the hatchery recently released 112 million bay scallop larvae into First Bend. The next two releases will be into Madaket Harbor.

Ms. Riley reported that her crew brought in two spat bags recently but that she's yet to analyze them.

Mr. Brace asked Ms. Riley if deterring birds from roosting and pooping on the oyster cages would serve a good purpose since they will just poop elsewhere in the harbor once deterred from landing on the cages. Ms. Riley explained the concentrating of guano on

the cages causes increased amounts of marine plant growth on the cages. Mr. Bossi asked what the status of Mr. Lambrecht's oyster lease is. Ms. Riley said the Select Board would be discussing this issue at their July 7, 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Update on proposed amendments to boat Airbnb and liveboards regulations

Mr. Lowell announced that the Select Board would be holding a public hearing on the air bning of boats at its July 14, 2021 meeting. Mr. Lowell encouraged all HSAB to attend this meeting.

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

Mr. Fronzuto asked what the length of Mr. Lambrecht's extension on his permit was. Mr. Bossi said the Select Board gave Mr. Lambrecht an additional 45-day extension from its July 7 meeting to Aug. 20 to show significant progress removing his oyster cage gear from the Head of the Harbor. Ms. Andrews asked what progress Mr. Lambrecht had made. Ms. Riley said Mr. Carlson would report on Mr. Lambrecht's progress to the Select Board at its July 14 meeting.

Excessive sand in scallops/dredging plan – Discussion

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley if the pilot eelgrass planting plot in the harbor is being monitored. Ms. Riley reported that the Nantucket Land Council is monitoring this plot.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Excessive lawn fertilizer use – Update & discussion

Mr. Lowell reported that on June 21 Mr. Pronk saw a landscaper spraying weed killer on weeds in the Stop & Shop parking lot downtown six feet from a storm drain. Mr. Pronk said the landscaping company was Champoux Landscaping. Mr. Pronk added that he informed this person of the negative impacts of this weed killer, which appeared to be RoundUp, on the marine life in the harbor.

Ms. Andrews recommended a letter to Nantucket Island Resorts reminding them the importance of maintaining the health of the harbors and the use of environmentally-friendly products that won't harm marine life. Mr. Fronzuto said he would contact the Health Inspector and the Natural Resources Department on this issue. Mr. Pronk agreed as did Ms. Andrews. Mr. Brace agreed. Mr. Fronzuto said he would find out who at NIR the letter should be sent to get quick action. The HSAB agreed this letter should be reviewed by Town Administration before it's sent to NIR.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

No report.

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

Ms. Riley reported that Ms. Fournier is taking water quality samples twice a month in June, July and August.

NEW BUSINESS

Boat holding tank pumpouts – Discussion

Mr. Lowell reported that Steve Bender is concerned that the private boat captains in tied up at the boat basin and moored in Nantucket Harbor are treating their sewage heavily with bleach in attempt at having the fecal coliform bacteria not show up in water quality sampling test and only show as nitrogen. Mr. Lowell said he wanted to see some visual proof from Mr. Bender that this happening. Mr. Lowell indicated that Select Board member Matt

Fee is in support of Mr. Bender's complaint. Ms. Andrews said Mr. Bender told her he'd spoken with crew members of a boat, not the captain, and that the crew reported treating gray water with bleach, not sewage. She added that wanted more clarification from the Conservation Commission on what can be discharged into the harbor.

Mr. Fronzuto clarified that he got Nantucket declared a federal no-discharge zone in 1993 and enacted a prohibition on dumping of gray water from dishwashers and washing machines into the harbors. He said the yachts tied up in the mega-yachts tied up at the boat basin are "direct-connected" connected to the sewage collection system. He added that there's no way to enforce the prohibition on dumping gray water from sinks and showers on boats. Mr. Fronzuto said Mr. Bender has made similar complaints for the last 30 years but that he's been unable to provide concrete proof that this dumping is happening. Mr. Fronzuto said the water quality testing done by the state and town happens at five sites within the boat basin. Ms. Riley offered that these sites may have changed. Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley to provide the HSAB with the water quality testing site locations within the boat basin. Ms. Riley said she would.

Mr. Brace said Mr. Fee is asking the HSAB needs to make a recommendation to the Select Board on this issue. Mr. Brace agreed that the HSAB needed some proof of this dumping happening to base the board's recommendation for action on. Mr. Szydowski said Mr. Bender needs to substantiate his claim by identifying the boat and the captain he says did this dumping before the HSAB takes action by a recommendation to the Select Board. Mr. Fronzuto strongly agreed. Mr. Brace recommended that Mr. Fee needs to attend a future HSAB at which this issue is on the agenda. He added that Mr. Bender should attend that meeting as well. Mr. Bossi said he couldn't believe that a large yacht in the harbor would be dumping gray water or sewage into the harbor because these boat crews know well enough how to operate within the harbor. Mr. Bossi conceded that the only time he would believe

boat owners would dump sewage or gray water into the harbor is during Figawi Weekend.

Mr. Fronzuto said when the harbors are full, we have 5,500 boats and that enforcement can be an extreme challenge especially if a dye tablet has to be placed into every boat holding tank.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved at 6:18 p.m.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

Future Meetings:

Aug. 3 and Sept. 7

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary