

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 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, Dave Bossi, Ginger Andrews, Peter Brace, Tom Szydowski, Dave Fronzuto

Members Absent: Dan Pronk

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Brian Bushard, Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of June 1, 2021 and July 6, 2021

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Lowell called for a moment of silence to honor former shellfish warden Albert "Jalopy" Coffin who recently passed over the bar.

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 hatchery portion of the 2021 season and released its last bay scallop larvae into Nantucket Harbor. She added that she and her hatchery staff met all of their shellfish spawn and release goals for the season, releasing 120 million bay scallop larvae in Nantucket Harbor, most of it in First and Second Bend, and 50 million in Madaket Harbor. Ms. Riley said the hatchery also raised 500,000 close-set bay scallops and released them at 1.5 millimeters in Nantucket Harbor.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her staff are starting to clean up the hatchery after their season. She also reported that she and her crew have made ready the concrete “oyster castles” with oyster seed for the Nantucket Conservation Foundation’s (NCF) oyster reef as part of its restoration of Medouie Creek. Ms. Riley added that she is working with the Nantucket Land Council on an eelgrass restoration project by growing eelgrass in the hatchery.

Ms. Riley reported that she did not get a state municipal vulnerability grant she had been anticipating to use to continue their harbor survey in Nantucket Harbor in September. Instead, she is drawing from their own budget and will do the same survey in Madaket Harbor in 2022.

Mr. Brace asked if the hatchery spawned quahogs this season. Ms. Riley said they did not produce quahog seed this season because they take a lot of space in their grow tanks, so she didn't have enough space to do the quahogs because the hatchery had to grow oysters for NCF’s Medouie Creek project.

Mr. Lowell noted that several recreational shellfishers had good luck getting quahogs in Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Bossi estimated that quahogs were probably doing well in the closed areas in the harbors.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Update on proposed amendments to boat Airbnb and liveaboards regulations

Mr. Lowell reported that the Select Board's discussion on these issues at its July 14, 2021 meeting was continued to its Aug. 18, 2021 meeting. He added that the Select Board wasn't willing to bend on these issues, it is willing to add the HSAB's recommendation that a licensed boat captain or the owner the boats to be airbnded be on the boat at all times.

Mr. Lowell reported that the slip lottery may be kept the same as it is currently.

Mr. Szydowski said that Deputy Police Chief did not include the HSAB's recommendations on how to run the lottery. He said that the A portion of the lottery winners who would get slips for life are not being told to relinquish their moorings. On the dinghy situation, Mr. Szydowski reported that dinghies over 10 feet in length must be permitted for a fee of \$25.

Mr. Fronzuto said he would like to see a copy of this proposal from Sheila Lucey. He added that those who get a lifetime slip should have to give up their mooring.

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

Mr. Lowell asked for an update from anyone who could give one.

Ms. Riley said she heard anecdotally that Ted Lambrecht has launched his boat and is working on his gear.

Mr. Bossi said he said hasn't seen any reports on this issue at Select Board meetings.

Mer. Szydowski suggested that the HSAB should wait until the Select Board's 45-day extension for Mr. Lambrecht expires on Aug. 20 before asking for an official update.

Mr. Brace agreed with Mr. Szydowski and suggested inviting Mr. Lambrecht to one of the HSAB's September meetings for an update of from him on his progress.

The HSAB agreed that waiting until after the Aug. 20 deadline was prudent.

Excessive sand in scallops/dredging plan – Discussion

No report.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Excessive lawn fertilizer use – Update & discussion

No report.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Ms. Riley said that although the Natural Resources Department did not have an update on this issue, she said they needed to have a discussion on it before the recreation scallop season begins on Oct. 1.

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

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley if there is any water sampling being done in the boat basin. Ms. Riley said no. Mr. Lowell asked if there were plans to buy and employ more SONDES water quality samplers for the harbors. Ms. Riley said not at the moment because of their high purchase and maintenance costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft letter to Nantucket Island Resorts on spraying of toxic weed killer in downtown Stop & Shop parking lot - Discussion

The board voiced their approval of the letter Mr. Brace wrote on behalf of the HSAB. Mr. Brace said the he would send this letter to Nantucket Island Resorts (NIR). The HSAB voted 6-0 to send the letter to NIR.

Boat holding tank pumpouts – Discussion

Noting that former HSAB member and current oyster farmer Steve Bender had previously demanded that the HSAB take the appropriate steps to halt alleged discharge of boat holding tanks into Nantucket Harbor, Mr. Lowell stated that the HSAB would

gladly take such steps once Mr. Bender provide the board with concrete evidence these discharges including boat names, names of captains, dates and times of the alleged incidents. Mr. Lowell also informed the HSAB that Ms. Lucey, the main speaker at this summer's State of the Harbor Forum at the Nantucket Yacht Club, announced at the forum the town's purchase of 8,000 dye tablets to be placed in all gray water and black water holding tanks in all boats in Nantucket's harbors as boats enter the harbor and the boat basin.

Mr. Brace reminded the HSAB that Ms. Lucey had always been hesitant to buy the dye tablets because of the difficulty of enforcement. He asked how the Marine Department planned to enforce the use of the dye tablets.

Mr. Fronzuto said that 8,000 is probably enough for a year and would only be for mooring companies to deploy and that the public will be the main enforcers by reporting incidents of dumping to the Marine Department. Mr. Lowell said maybe the Nantucket Land Council, which paid for the tablets, could educate the public on how to spot the dye in the water near a boat that illegally discharged their holding tanks. Mr. Fronzuto suggested the HSAB do its own public education press release. He said the challenge is getting the dye tablet in the tanks and information about Nantucket's waters being a federal no-discharge zone. He added that getting tablets into tanks would be the tough part of enforcement. Mr. Lowell said he would contact Ms. Lucey for more information on the dye tablets, including their color. Ms. Andrews said the public needs know that if they see such a discharge that they take a photo, note the time, date, location and name of the boat.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Szydlowski said there should be an update on the issues with the dinghies, town pier slip lottery and the airbnb'ing of boats.

Mr. Lowell reported that he recently seen a post on Facebook showing a man cleaning oil off of turtles found in a private pond just off Polpis Road.

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 5-0, at 6:01 p.m.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

Future Meetings:

Sept. 7 and Sept. 21

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary