

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Dave Fronzuto, Tom Szydowski,
Peter Brace, Ginger Andrews, Dan Pronk

Members Absent: Dave Bossi

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hoiser, Jim Sjolund

CALL TO ORDER

5:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Jan. 19, 2021

Voting on the Jan. 19, 2021 minutes moved to the Feb. 16, 2021 meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT: 

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

Harbormaster not present. No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that her crew at the hatchery was wrapping up maintenance and repair of the hatchery. She added that on Jan. 25, they

would be bringing adult scallops and oysters into the hatchery to begin spawning after feeding them algae and holding the water temperature at 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ms. Riley said that she and shellfish warden J.C. Johnson are working on the 2021 aquaculture permit. She added that she is also working on a pilot project in Polpis Harbor on deterring birds from roosting on oyster cages. She also reported that she plans to have the Town's scallop boat rigged by August and ready for moving scallop seed when needed. Ms. Riley said she is working on job descriptions for the three or four hatchery interns she plans to hire for the season.

Ms. Riley did not have an updated bay scallop bushel count for the board, but she did say that the numbers of bushels and boats fishing were similar to last season's numbers.

Mr. Lowell asked if the town's scallop boat came with dredges and where Ms. Riley was working on the boat. Ms. Riley said the boat has dredges and is being stored in the old fire station on Pleasant Street. Ms. Riley reported that the commercial scallopers have lost two days to inclement weather so far this season.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Revised letter to Land Bank on Petrel Landing plans - Discussion

Mr. Brace said he revised the letter this time around based on comments from Mr. Bossi and Ms. Andrews. The HSAB voted unanimously, 6-0, to send the letter to the Nantucket Islands Land Bank.

Oyster lease permit review – Discussion

Mr. Lambrecht was not present at the meeting to update the board on the status of his oyster boat.

Ms. Riley reported that she'd met with Mr. Johnson and NRD director Jeff Carlson recently, and they said they had planned to check in on Mr. Lambrecht on Feb. 2.

Mr. Lowell relayed an anonymous oyster farmer's opinion that Mr. Lambrecht's oyster gear probably wouldn't come off the bottom of the harbor in one piece. Mr. Pronk reported that this winter, he's picked up half a dozen pieces of oyster gear owned by Mr. Lambrecht off the beach in Wauwinet this winter. Ms. Riley confirmed that her hatchery crew had recent underwater video of Mr. Lambrecht's gear and that it had a lot of growth on it, that it looked like a reef.

Proposed oyster reef recommendation letter - critique

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley to explain if the oyster drill worm population in the harbor would increase with the introduction of more oysters on this proposed reef. Ms. Riley said there are plenty of marine species in the harbor including crabs that will eat these worms, so they shouldn't be a problem.

The HSAB voted unanimously, 6-0, to send the letter to the Conservation Commission to be included in the record for this proposal.

Excessive sand in scallops/dredging plan - Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto reported on a pilot eelgrass program he is working on for Nantucket Harbor with Steve McKenna, Cape & Islands Regional Coordinator for the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, that could remove excess sand from a given area in the harbor for the planting of eelgrass. He also reported that he was helping organize a virtual eelgrass symposium, an eelgrass summit on March 31. Mr. Fronzuto said he would resend his email on this to ensure that all of the board got the link to symposium. Mr. Fronzuto said the pilot project would be two 100-square-foot plots. One plot would have eelgrass planted right on the sandy bottom and for the other, the excess sand would be excavated and eelgrass planted there so the two plots could be compared. The project would be grounded in water quality enhancement to help the eelgrass and shellfish.

Ms. Riley reported that she's been discussing possible eelgrass pilot projects with Nantucket Land Council executive director Emily Molden on the possibility of doing eelgrass starts in bags in the hatchery's shellfish tanks this summer.

Jan. 28 Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee open house - Report

Mr. Brace reported that he sent the YouTube link for this event to all HSAB members. He added that 168 people attended and that there appeared to be a good cross section of the island community at the open house. He said he would resend this link to make sure everyone got it

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Excessive lawn fertilizer use - Discussion

No discussion on this item.

Mr. Lowell updated the board on dumpster sticker being jointly produced by the HSAB and the Nantucket Shellfish Association. He reported that the NSA lacked a quorum to hold its most recent meeting, but Mr. Lowell noted that the NSA did approve funding the production of the sticker with \$1,000 at a previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Abandoned boats in the harbor - discussion

Mr. Lowell announced another abandoned boat in Nantucket Harbor, this new in the vicinity of Hussey Shoal.

The board revisited issue of the abandoned sailboat on the beach in Quaise. Mr. Fronzuto said he had an idea on how to deal with this boat that he said would pursue on his own. Mr. Pronk said the property owner has previously tried to hire a mooring company to remove the boat from the beach, but the cost of this effort prevented this from happening. Mr. Pronk offered to pull the boat off the beach with his boat.

Mr. Lowell asked if the HSAB might reach out to the boat's owner to see if everyone could work together to remove the boat. Mr. Pronk said there needs to be more accountability for abandoned boats, some sort of penalty possibly tied to various town permits. Mr. Fronzuto said he would call the owner's father to see if the HSAB could help get the boat off of the beach.

Mr. Lowell said the existing regulations on abandoned boats should be applied and possible penalties such as loss of shellfish permit, mooring permit and other marine-related permits be used as incentives. Mr. Brace said it appeared possible to drive down onto the beach from Quaise Road, but Mr. Fronzuto said there wasn't enough room. Mr. Brace said an order of conditions from the Conservation Commission would be needed for any work on the beach to happen.

Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Fronzuto and Mr. Pronk to report back to the HSAB on their progress in reaching out to the boat's owner.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Sjolund suggested that the word "commercial" be replaced with "community" when referring to access to the proposed dinghy dock at Petrel Landing in the letter that the board is going to send to the Land Bank.

Mr. Brace explained the Land Bank's mission to the HSAB.

Ms. Andrews questioned the definition of commercial. Mr. Pronk said it would be great to be able to unload his lobsters at Petrel Landing and it would good if there were more sections of the downtown waterfront where commercial fishermen could tie up their boats to load gear and unload their catch.

Mr. Lowell and Mr. Pronk lamented the new Land Bank park at Easy Street Basin not providing any access for commercial boats.

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 6-0, at 6:11 p.m.

Future Meetings:

Feb. 16 and March 2

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary

