

**Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update
Committee**

Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 at 1 p.m.

Meeting trailer, 131 Pleasant St., Nantucket, MA 02554

***NMHAPUC meetings are video-recorded and
available at Nantucket Government TV on YouTube**

Members present: Linda Williams (chairman), Dave Fronzuto, Phil Smith (vice chairman), Peter Brace, Steve Leinbach, Emily Molden, Seth Engelbourg, Jesse Bell, Samantha Denette

Members Absent: Roberto Santamaria

Natural Resources Dept (NRD): Jeff Carlson, Tara Riley

Urban Harbors Institute (UHI): Jack Wiggin, Kim Starbuck, Kristin Uiterwyk, Alan Bartels, Dack Stuart, Allison Novelly???

Others:

CALL TO ORDER

1:05 p.m.

1. WELCOME (Jeff Carlson/Tara Riley/Linda Williams)

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order and read the script for remotely conducted open meetings.

a. Approval of agenda

Mr. Brace moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded that motion. That motion carried, 9-0.

b. Approval of minutes

Mr. Brace listed the dates of the minutes he sent to the committee. The NMHAPUC agreed that it would review and vote on the minutes of Oct. 2, 2023, Oct. 16, 2023, Nov. 6, 2023 and Dec. 4, 2023. Mr. Smith asked that Mr. Brace to identify, in addition to their names, the affiliations of each of the members of the public in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Brace, with the caveat that Roberts

Rules of Order only requires “a sense of the meeting”, agreed to this request.

2. DISCUSS ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Natural resources – continue from 12/18 meeting

Ms. Starbuck said she would try to help the committee get through these items by the end of the meeting.

Ms. Starbuck said the NMHAPUC left off at #6 in the Natural Resources section. The committee discussed better management and enforcement of toxic material entering the harbor. Mr. Brace suggested maybe the Town’s water quality specialist. Mr. Engelbourg said this isn’t the time to decide staffing for this action item.

Ms. Molden said maybe a bullet item to better identify what such materials are being used on the island, probably working with landscapers, as Mr. Engelbourg suggested. Ms. Riley said she agreed with Emily or Seth. She adding there should also be a list of pesticides. Ms. Williams asked if all of this seemed doable. Mr. Carlson said maybe. Ms. Molden added that she didn't think that individual landscapers coming to the Town for a license to apply fertilizers should reporting what they’re using, but maybe the owner of their landscaping company should be before employees are licensed to apply fertilizers. Ms. Molden suggested these owners might also list the pesticides that they’re using when they come in for licenses for their employees.

The NMHAPUC then moved to #7, General Threats to Marine Mammals and Shorebirds. Ms. Starbuck asked what the big threats here. Mr. Engelbourg said this item falls outside of the NMHAPUC update efforts. He said the Endangered Species Act as well as the state’s Environmental Police take care of a lot of their protection and enforcement. Mr. Brace noted that Smith’s Point doesn’t see much coverage for this type of enforcement.

b. Commercial waterfront

Ms. Starbuck moved this discussion on #8, the growing number of people on the island year-round and the strain this puts on Nantucket's natural resources. She added that many people may not be following and obeying laws related to the protection of island natural resources. She said that education and public outreach would be the highlight of this discussion.

Ms. Williams recommended working with such avenues of entrance into the island such as the Nantucket Boat Basin management, the Town Pier and the mooring permit system, vehicle rental agencies, the Town Clerk's office. She added that a comprehensive brochure could be handed out at these outlets. Mr. Smith said the harbormaster could also help. Mr. Fronzuto said that Nantucket Moorings is required to hand out whatever the Town asks them to. He added that displays of this information could put up at in the airport terminal. He suggested that links to this information could be created as well at the appropriate online portals. Mr. Engelbourg said there still be people who ignore all this information. He suggested that education should be required before mooring permits and shellfish licenses are issued. Mr. Brace suggested such education information could be required reading before people get their saltwater fishing licenses on the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website. Mr. Leinbach suggested strengthening the holding tank dye tablet program. Mr. Smith said it doesn't seem the boat pumping out holding tanks that the harbormaster oversees is really doing an adequate job. Mr. Fronzuto suggested checking in with Harbormaster Sheila Lucey.

Ms. Molden said she didn't know how many of the dye tablets that the Nantucket Land & Water Council funded for the Town have been handed out, but that this should be checked into.

Mr. Brace recommended having Ms. Lucey attend a future NMHAPUC meeting so she can explain how the Marine Department's boat pumpout and dye tablet programs work, and the volume pumped and tablets distributed. Ms. Williams steered the NMHAPUC away from discussing potential bylaws that might be

needed for the plan's action items. Ms. Bell said the mention of bylaws should still be attached to each of the item categories. Ms. Starbuck listed some of the suggested action items from the public input survey and meetings. Ms. Williams noted tinker bluefish, scup and minnows in addition to the winter flounder that Ms. Starbuck listed as concerns for protection from public input. Mr. Smith suggested help from Maria Mitchell's aquarium staff. Mr. Fronzuto said the state's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) uses winter flounder breeding times of the year to guide municipalities on when they can do work on their harbor bottoms. Mr. Engelbourg mentioned the mission of the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative (NBI), which already promotes researches wildlife on land and in the water on Nantucket's three islands. Ms. Starbuck reviewed the goals discussed at this meeting and asked for committee member comments. Mr. Fronzuto said the natural resources goal language should be stronger and direct so that it's totally clear what this goal is;

c. Coordination and administration

3. NEXT STEPS (All)

a. Next committee meeting

ADJOURN

Ms. Williams called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Smith made that motion. Mr. Brace seconded this motion. The NMHAPUC voted 8-0 at 2:02 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiF0ybwz0ac&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhtfTnajKC38HEDIJx7asi0&index=18>

Future Meetings:

Jan. 22 and Feb. 5

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary