

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Community Room, 4 Fairgrounds Road
*HSAB meeting are video-recorded and
available at Nantucket Government TV on YouTube**

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

Members Absent: Dave Fronzuto, Dan Pronk

Marine Dept: Sheila Lucey

Natural Resources Dept: Leah Hill

Others: Kona Hosier, Dylan Taylor Moreau

CALL TO ORDER

5:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of March 2, 2021

As Mr. Brace didn't complete this set of minutes in time for the meeting, Mr. Lowell continued the vote on the draft March 2, 2021 minutes to the April 6, 2021 meeting of the HSAB.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Three water quality forums to attend:

1. March 18 - Clean Water Topics on Tap webinar – registration link: <https://bit.ly/2OoWann>, YouTube viewing link: <https://bit.ly/3ey68O0>
2. March 31 - Zosterapalooza XXX – email EPA's Phil Colarusso at colarusso.phil@epa.gov

3. April 15 – Nantucket Waterkeeper informational forum – registration link: <https://bit.ly/3lbku83>, YouTube viewing link: <https://bit.ly/3ey68O0>

Mr. Lowell briefly detailed these water quality forums for the board.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department Report – Sheila Lucey

Ms. Lucey reported that she is in the middle of hiring lifeguards, which will include extra guards in anticipation of a very busy season. She added she's had 91 applicants and that she hopes to run the junior lifeguard program again. Ms. Lucey reported that she is working on a plan to renumber the public access points around the island's shores for which already exist global positioning system (GPS) coordinates. She said she wants to ensure there is no confusion among rescue personnel for getting to these access points ASAP when they need to.

Ms. Lucey said she is working on readying houses where the lifeguards will stay.

Ms. Lucey reported that she plans to put the dinghy docks in the first week of April and do all the repairs on the floating docks in-house.

Ms. Lucey reported that Town Administration is looking to have the dinghy rack situation on Monomoy Shores move along expeditiously. She added that all dinghies will have to be permitted and those dinghies without stickers will be removed from the racks. Dinghies, kayaks and paddleboards on the ground will be removed also. Ms. Lucey said that property owners especially don't like people overloading the dinghy racks with kayaks.

Mr. Szydlowski asked Ms. Lucey would be enforcing the rack at the bottom of Cathcart Road as well. Ms. Lucey said she would be doing so on behalf the Nantucket Islands Land Bank, which owns that property.

Ms. Lucey clarified that the Monomoy Association doesn't want to allow dinghy or kayak storage unless their connected to a specific mooring owner or renter. Mr. Szydlowski said there will likely be a lot of complaining by kayak owners who won't see this coming. Ms. Lucey suggested that kayakers might be able to store their kayaks over at the beach in front of Washington Street Extension. Mr. Brace said he doesn't understand leaving his kayak anywhere other than his property. Mr. Brace admitted that the Town has been lucky up to this point that the coastal property owners haven't complained yet. Mr. Lowell praised Ms. Lucey for all of her work this spring. He also asked how much housing she was short of her incoming lifeguards. Ms. Lucey said she is asking for the community step up and help her find the housing she needs for her lifeguards and made assurances that the houses would be left better than she found them.

Ms. Andrews said it's the Land Bank's job to "police" its property at Cathcart Road, not the Town. She added that the Land Bank also needs to provide more kayak storage space. Ms. Lucey said the Town monitors the Berkley Avenue racks and the Land Bank *does* monitor its Cathcart Road property. She added that the abandoned boat on the beach at Quaise has been removed from the she shore. Ms. Lucey left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Update on proposed amendments to boat Airbnb and liveboards regulations

No discussion.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Hill reported 8-10 commercial bay scallop boats fishing the harbors on good weather days and on bad weather days, 2-6 boats with scallopers not always getting their limits.

Ms. Hill reported that renewal letters were sent out in early February out to all current scallopers to remind them of the commercial license renewal deadline March 31.

Ms. Hill said the NRD is going to run an online certification program from commercial fertilizer applicators that monitors who takes the course.

Ms. Hill reported that the NRD would be opening Sesachacha Pond at the end of March and Hummock Pond in early April.

Ms. Hill reported that the seasonal technicians/interns for the shellfish hatchery need housing for this season. Mr. Brace suggested that the hatchery's interns should team up with the seasonal employees for Mass Audubon and the Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF) to get a house for the season together.

Ms. Hill reported that the hatchery has "set" five million bay scallops and that they've scheduled an oyster spawn for March 24. She added that these oysters are to be deployed to NCF's oyster reef in front of Medouie Creek.

Ms. Hill reported that Town Shellfish Biologist Tara Riley is doing an algae growth experiment with island middle school students. She added that the fall bay scallop and eelgrass surveys will continue for a second year in Nantucket Harbor with Madaket Harbor being added this year. Ms. Hill also reported that the NRD is applying for a grant with the Nantucket Land Council to fund the continuing effort of planting eelgrass in Nantucket Harbor.

Ms. Hill said the NRD is planning a dune resiliency day on March 24 for planting beach grass on the dune in front of Hither Creek along the south shore.

Ms. Hill reported that the next series of focus meetings in relation to the creation of the Town's Coastal Resilience Plan are to be on Nantucket Harbor east for a line between Coatue Point and Cathcart Road. This meeting would be at the end of April.

Mr. Bossi thanked Ms. Hill for her thorough report. Ms. Andrews said that the Jersey barriers at Millie's Bridge were not properly placed, but she praised the beach grass planting effort. Mr. Lowell

agreed with Ms. Andrews and said he hopes the barriers can be reconfigured.

Mr. Lowell asked if the NRD is monitoring Miacomet Pond for water levels. Ms. Hill said she would get an answer from Thais Fournier, the Town's water quality specialist, in time for the HSAB's April 6 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Oyster lease permit review – Discussion

Mr. Lowell briefly recapped this issue for the board. Ms. Hill did not have an update on this issue for the HSAB.

Excessive sand in scallops/dredging plan - Discussion

Mr. Lowell expressed his confidence that he got his point across on this issue.

Abandoned boats in the harbor - discussion

Mr. Brace said it's a good idea that dinghies be permitted and be required to display their permit sticker. Mr. Lowell remarked that there appears to always be kayaks and dinghies left on harbor racks well after the Town's and the Land Bank's Oct. 15 deadline, so the proposed permit system could really help alleviate this situation. Mr. Bossi agreed and said that in his town in New Jersey they would advertise the forgotten dinghies and kayaks in the newspaper were free for the taking if left on the shore after a certain date.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Excessive lawn fertilizer use – Update & discussion

The HSAB briefly rehashed this issue.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Ms. Hill said she would update the HSAB on this matter when she had information to share.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 5-0, at 6:08 p.m.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://bit.ly/3mxb3Rn>

Future Meetings:

April 6 and April 20

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary