

NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

November 5 2019

Attending: John Riehl, John Duane, Tom Flynn, Tom Slack

Representing Shellfish Advisory Board: David Seitler, John Duane, Jake Puffer, Rebecca Taylor,
Thomas Siggia; Nancy Civetta

Guests: Helen Miranda Wilson; Al Pickard; Stephen Pickard; Iris Pickard

Discussion about Harbor Management Plan:

- > Shellfish business is healthy and thriving, including dragging business
- > No evidence of direct impact on shellfishing from climate change; “phenology” may be a future concern
- > Shellfish stocks come from many sources; nursery stocks are important; much use of captured spat; need for genetic diversity
- > Discussion of “Curley” report; needs regular repeat for monitoring both the general harbor health and shellfish stocks
- > Audubon oyster reef was successful in potential to increase shellfish stocks but was subject to ice damage
- > Importance of salt marshes; forage fish, which eat mosquitoes; threat due to climate change and sea level rise ... some signs already of changes in marshes
- > Discussion of Wallace eelgrass/bay scallop trial from 1995; bay scallops now common in Wellfleet harbor; cyclical (?); eelgrass is abundant outside of Jeremy Point
- > Broad concern about health of inner harbor; need to review efficiency and traps of storm water catchments and discharge points for whole harbor
- > Inner harbor dredging seen as a priority; recall recommendation from the Geise study (in the 1995 Harbor Plan) to remove the Rail Road dike as part of a post dredging strategy;
- > grants along Mayo Beach are also being negatively affected by a “black mayonnaise” material;
- > Redesign of marina pier has been shown to be ineffective in reducing inner harbor sediments; report in 1995 Harbor Plan (see Appendix A on NRAB web-site)
- > Plastics and micro-plastics are an issue; need to control the former and to understand the latter
- > Reviewed list of shellfish access points update; abutter agreements may be useful long term; key issue is improved access from Lt Island
- > goal to have a Harbor Plan and Shellfish Plan ready by mid-summer 2020

Approved November 20 2019 : 4-0