

**Notes from the Public Meeting to discuss Natural Resource Protection
17 October, 2005
Nantucket High School
5–6 pm.**

Approximately 25 people attended at least part of the meeting

The purpose of this public meeting on the update of the 1993 Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action plan was to discuss issues related to natural resource protection in and around the two harbors.

Presenters:

David Fronzuto, Nantucket Marine Superintendent.
Jack Wiggin, University of Massachusetts, Urban Harbors Institute

Other members of the planning team in attendance:

Steve Bliven, Sarah Oktay, John Duff and Lisa Bowen of the Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston; Rich Delaney of the Horsley Witten Group.

- Dave Fronzuto provided a brief introduction of the harbor plan update process and the planning team. He strongly suggested that interested parties visit the associated web site www.nantucketharborplan.com for additional information.

Jack Wiggin, Director of the Urban Harbors Institute and Project Manager:

- Stressed the importance of the topics being addressed during all of the public meetings,
- Reviewed the Goals and Objectives related to natural resource protection provided in the 1993 Harbor Plan
- Introduced the specific Action Items from the plan, seeking comment on whether they had been successfully completed, continued to be important, or whether there were new topics to be addressed within the updated harbor plan. (please see the separate Powerpoint file for a copy of this presentation). Some attendees felt that a few items were checked off in the presentation as being done, that were in fact, not done.

The following is a summary of the comments, questions, and issues raised during the meeting.

- Sustainable Nantucket submitted a series of written questions for public response in the Plan Update or another means.
- The 1993 Plan recommended that a mooring area be designated in Madaket Harbor. Was this done? Dave Fronzuto indicated that it had been done and said that it will be placed on a chart and made available.
- The Jackson Point pier has limited use but the Town Pier in Madaket is over-used. Suggested that some of the commercial activity be shifted to Jackson Point. A community member suggested that recreation oriented activities currently located at Jackson Point on Madaket Harbor might be better accommodated at Warren's Landing. Also, commercial oriented activities currently located at Warren's Landing might be better accommodated at Jackson Point. Dave Fronzuto indicated that it would be possible to switch some commercial activity to JP and that this situation would be an excellent example of an area we could create bylaws for passage at town meeting. Dave

also appealed to those present to give him suggestions for bylaws. The Town is also continuing with improvements to the F Street Pier.

- There should be a public boating access point at Warren's Landing.
- There is a continuing need to manage light pollution, particular from the Madaket Boatyard. There should be recommendation(s) in the Plan Update on how to manage this as a means to protect natural resources. Dave Fronzuto noted that light pollution also has impacts on navigation. The Town does have a by-law regarding lighting (passed at 2005 Town Meeting). UHI will review this by-law to see if changes are necessary or if improved enforcement is needed. Peter Boyce (the Dark Sky bylaw author) said that currently the lighting bylaw was sitting at the attorney's office and that it originally addressed land-based lighting only. He will check on that bylaw and work with Dave to make the necessary changes (if any are needed).
- It was suggested that natural resource protection is covered by the Conservation Commission regulations. However, it was noted that the jurisdiction of the Commission is only related to wetlands and resources found there. The jurisdiction is also limited to a case-by-case review of proposed projects (as opposed to more proactive means of protection) and are generally limited to a specific set of interests related to wetlands. One person mentioned that too many waivers are granted by the ConComm.
- It was questioned whether the various Action Items from the 1993 plan ever got into the by-laws of the various boards and commissions and whether those boards and commissions ever formally adopted the goals and objectives as laid out in the 1993 Plan. Part of the UHI project will be to review how effectively the various action items were adopted within the Town, whether the various issues remain of concern, and make further recommendations where appropriate.
- The goals of the Harbor Plan should be adopted where appropriate in the Open Space Plan.
- Is there a potential for open space zoning? The Plan Update should address this option. Could all current "open space" be put into this zoning? Could things like the Madaket Land Trust be put into an "Open Space Zone"? What are the tax implications?
- Many subdivisions incorporated 30-year restrictions on increased levels of development, thereby maintaining open space. Currently, some of these 30-year restrictions are expiring leading to the potential for more, denser development. What could be done about this issue? John Duff of UMass Boston agreed to look into this issue and possible responses.