

LAKE TASHMOO ANCHORAGE MORATORIUM
AGENDA ITEM, SELECT BOARD MEETING,
MARCH 22, 2023 – CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED

FW: Moratorium on Anchoring in Tashmoo

John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Thu 3/2/2023 9:00 AM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

From: Peter Grilli <grilli@japansocietyboston.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:20 AM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>

Cc: melindaloberg@gmail.com; Paul Darby <jdarby1024@gmail.com>

Subject: Moratorium on Anchoring in Tashmoo

Dear Jay Grande and Members of the Tisbury Select Board,

We are land owners on the west bank of Lake Tashmoo who continue to be disturbed by the noise and partying of boats anchoring on summer weekends, often with little regard for the peace of residents or the health of the lake. We are not against reasonable recreation that respects this beautiful piece of the Vineyard, but we are for a happier coexistence between visitors and those of us for whom the lake has been a beloved home, if only seasonal. I just realized that this coming summer will be my 82nd, having arrived first in 1941, in a basket, at the age of just two months!

Given the impossibility of full-time monitoring with the present Harbormaster's duties stretched thin among the Harbor, the Lagoon, and Lake Tashmoo, we continue to think (see our letter of July 19, 2021) that a moratorium on anchoring for at least one test season would be a worthwhile experiment. Dragging anchors and free-for-all speeding by visiting boats have brought armloads of eelgrass up from the lake's bottom, further harming an ecology already under a lot of strain.

We love Lake Tashmoo and are sad to see what it is becoming. Let's renew Tashmoo while we still can!

Susan and Peter Grilli
321 Northern Pines Road
Tisbury, MA

March 2, 2023

Dear Tisbury Town Officials,

As a lakefront homeowner who has witnessed the increasing number of boats anchoring on Lake Tashmoo, I am writing to encourage the Select Board and Waterways Committee to consider restrictions. Additionally, based on observation over the last few years, I recommend that some current practices among visiting boaters be prohibited, and that rules for boaters are broadly communicated and enforced. My concerns relate both to the ecosystem of the lake and to the safe and peaceful enjoyment of the area by all who use the water and by those who live nearby.

The shellfish-friendly reduction in the Tashmoo anchorage area has not led to a reduction in the number of visiting boats, but rather to the concentration of activity to a smaller area, creating a "parking lot" feel on nice weekend days. As an abutter to this area, I realize that most boaters enjoy their visits respectfully. However, their numbers are overwhelming, and the rafting of even quiet boats blocks sightlines and can make swimming and paddling intimidating and potentially dangerous. In addition, some boaters partake in activities—excessive noise and (blatant) alcohol use— that are explicitly prohibited in town parks and recreation areas, creating a "tailgate party" for many hours of the day and into the evening. With the way sound carries over water, even a few boats engaging in this activity, (by either day-trippers or overnights), makes quiet enjoyment of the lake impossible.

I would support the recommendation of the Harbormaster to install a limited number of moorings to accommodate a specified number of boats for day-trippers. Furthermore, I would urge the implementation of an online reservations system and the charging of appropriate fees - similar to approaches by other towns. It seems unfair to expect the taxpayers to bear the full expense and constraints of maintaining the lake while allowing unlimited boaters to anchor at no charge and with few regulations.

We are particularly concerned that with anchoring availability being eliminated on other parts of the island, Lake Tashmoo has become an even more popular destination. We believe it's time to address these concerns and encourage the Select Board and the Waterways Committee to take action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Randy Parker

49 Kuffies Point Way

1randyparker@gmail.com

RE: Tashmoo moorings for day trippers

John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Mon 3/6/2023 8:20 AM

To: Walter Morris <wmorris1956@gmail.com>

Cc: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <abbeburt418@hotmail.com>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

Acknowledging receipt.

Sincerely,

John W Grande
Town Administrator
Town of Tisbury
Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Tel. (508) 696-4203

From: Walter Morris <wmorris1956@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 10:16 PM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Subject: Tashmoo moorings for day trippers

I am writing regarding the discussion of a moratorium on day trippers anchoring in Tashmoo/the possible installation of as many as 6 moorings for day trippers to use.

We live on the lake and keep a sailboat on a Tashmoo mooring. I sail several times a week from early May until mid-October. I have no issues with day trippers anchoring during the week. My sense is that the number of daytrippers on weekends has escalated during the last couple of summers. On a Saturday or Sunday I have often counted over 60 boats at the top of the lake. It's a challenge to get off my mooring after 1:00 P.M. or to get back on it before 6. I understand that Tashmoo offers warm water and a safe harbor, and if I had an afternoon and young kids, I'd want to head there, too. I don't feel I have any more rights than other folks, though the total number of boats, the partying, and increasing number of inflatables/mats in the water is potentially dangerous. I can not speak to the environmental impact of the traffic, all the anchors, etc. I hope that you have resources/expert advice to help guide your decision making. We all share responsibility as stewards of the lake to sustain if not improve its water quality/the health of the birds and critters that live there.

A concern I do have is navigating the cut. My boat draws about 4 1/2 feet; from two hours before to two hours after, some portion of the cut is not navigable. Day trippers sometimes don't realize this and assume they can enter/leave Tashmoo while another boat/even sailboat is doing the same. It has been at least three years since the channel has been dredged. The number of boats coming into Tashmoo on the weekends, coupled with the shallowness of parts of the cut and the lake, creates a dangerous situation.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Walter Morris
575 Chappaquonsett Road
Vineyard Haven

To: The Tisbury Board of Selectmen
Re: Anchoring in Tashmoo
Date: March 4, 2023

Members, Tisbury select board:

I've worked for the Tisbury shellfish department for five years, primarily assigned to Tashmoo Pond. With few exceptions, I've been on the water every July and August weekend, monitoring shellfishing activity and assisting the harbor department in ensuring boaters anchor in designated anchorage areas.

I want to share my perspective on an anchoring moratorium. But to be clear, I'm speaking for myself.

I appreciate the efforts to protect Tashmoo Pond, but the town could address anchoring concerns within existing regulations and upcoming planning initiatives. Why the push for a wholesale ban on anchoring now?

The waterways committee is still wrestling with revisions to the harbor regulations. Wrap that up, then they can take time to consider this proposal or alternatives.

According to the most recent Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Lake Tashmoo water quality sampling summary, "water quality is high."

The proposal by Scott Horsley to prepare a targeted watershed plan for Lake Tashmoo, referenced as the impetus for the moratorium push, identifies land-based nitrogen loading as the primary threat to water quality. The outline does not call for an anchoring moratorium.

Eelgrass is a vital part of the marine environment. In addition to Cape Poge and Menemsha Pond, Tashmoo retains relatively healthy eelgrass beds. According to a 2022 Division of Marine Fisheries survey, from 2001 to 2021, eelgrass increased from 38 to 47 acres.



Threats to eelgrass beds include mooring chains that scour the bottom, invasive green crabs ("One Bad Crab"), which clip eelgrass while searching for food, non-migratory geese, lawn fertilizer, and anchoring in sensitive areas.

A sign on the entrance channel osprey pole directs boaters to two designated anchorages in Tashmoo: an area past the osprey pole west of the channel and the pond's southern end. The DMF survey map shows these areas to be relatively outside eelgrass beds.

Specific color buoys could be used to better designate and restrict the osprey pole anchorage so boaters do not "drift" south into the eelgrass bed. Or the town could offer a limited number of day moorings for rent.

Most boaters are cooperative when aware of the rules. On any weekend, couples sit and read, and families and friends enjoy an on-the-water picnic. Occasionally, music gets too loud, but with few exceptions, when asked, the parties quiet down. We are a summer destination marine community. Tashmoo is a public resource. There are days that are difficult. The question is how best to manage weather-dependent boat traffic on weekends in July and August — at most sixteen days. Policy changes ought to emerge as part of the planning process.

A ban on anchoring would affect more than just mainland visitors. Many boats that visit Tashmoo show Menemsha, Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, and Vineyard Haven on the stern. It would also be an enforcement challenge.

I've met some wonderful people in Tashmoo who say they have been visiting the pond for years (see below). They would understand and support reasonable anchoring restrictions to protect Tashmoo.

Sincerely,
Nelson Sigelman
Vineyard Haven

On The Water boating columnist Captain Larry Backman of Falmouth commented on a news story, "Tisbury eyes anchoring moratorium in Lake Tashmoo," published in the Vineyard Gazette.

"As a long-time visitor to Tashmoo, I'd hate to see an outright ban. I think you have a major weekend control issue that needs to be addressed. My polite opinion is that anchoring should be restricted, and instead, a carefully designed number of mooring balls should be put in with a limited number of boats allowed to raft to one ball. Personally, I'd far prefer tying up to a ball than dealing with Tashmoo mud on my anchor. I'm happy to pay a nominal \$10-20 fee for that privilege."

Fwd: Moratorium on Anchoring in Tashmoo

John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Mon 3/6/2023 6:29 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

3 attachments (4 MB)

20200905_154622.jpg; 20200905_154633.jpg; 20210724_130850.jpg;

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From: Jorja Darby <jdarby1024@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 5:46:04 PM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>

Subject: Re: Moratorium on Anchoring in Tashmoo

Hello again,

Here are the photos we meant to attach to our previous email.

We urge you to institute a moratorium on anchoring in Tashmoo to protect this beautiful spot.

Respectfully,

Paul and Jorja Darby

On Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:43 PM Jorja Darby <jdarby1024@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Grande, Mr. Cutrer, Mr. Cahill and Ms. Burt,

I have attached a letter summarizing some of the issues facing us on Lake Tashmoo and explaining why we wholeheartedly support a moratorium on anchoring there. We believe the Harbormaster's proposal to install six moorings for daytrippers will allow visitors to enjoy the Lake in a manageable, enforceable way. We are in favor of people enjoying this wonderful spot but not loving it to death.

We've also attached a couple of photos showing the crush of boats we see on most summer days. The photos only show slices of the total scene but we hope they will give you a sense of how bad it is.

Dear Waterways Committee Members,

We live on the west side of Lake Tashmoo at "ground zero" of the area designated for anchoring inside the channel. Our family has lived in this beautiful spot since 1939 and so we've seen many, many changes over the years. Sadly, in front of our house oysters are gone and scallops, blue claw and horse shoe crabs are very few and far between. The eelgrass has all but disappeared.

In 2021 the Department of Marine Fisheries conducted a sonar scan of some parts of the Lake bottom and we were heartened to hear they saw "patchy" eelgrass trying to gain a foothold in a few areas inside the channel. They also found "dense" eelgrass in the upper two-thirds of the Lake. Many years ago the Town banned anchoring in the upper two-thirds of the Lake to protect areas where eelgrass was found. The good news it seems the Town's action to protect the eelgrass worked. This gives us great hope that if we act to protect the area inside the channel we can encourage the eelgrass to grow there and become dense...a huge boon for the overall health of the Lake and marine life.

Over the years we've also seen an alarming increase in the number of boats visiting Tashmoo for the day. Since the area west of the channel is the only anchorage available they all are concentrated there. It is not at all unusual for 100 boats to anchor on weekends and not just holiday weekends. We now see up to 40 boats during the week when the weather is nice. The huge majority of the boats are from Falmouth, a quick trip from Tashmoo. On nice summer days boats begin arriving around 10:30 am and the last of them leave at sunset. For every 100 boats even more than 100 anchors are set and hauled as boats come and go throughout the day and some of those anchors pull up what little eelgrass is trying to grow. We see it every day.

The crush of boats and people in Tashmoo often ruins what should be peaceful summer days. With that many people there are inevitably those with loud radios, those trying to anchor in the channel or in the shellfish beds, picking up moorings that don't belong to them, rafting five or more boats or coming ashore to trespass. The Harbormaster's team does a good job of patrolling regularly to enforce the rules and to respond to noise complaints but he and his staff can't be everywhere all of the time. (The dance parties begin after 5pm.) Nor do I think it makes any sense for Tisbury taxpayers to have to provide and patrol an anchorage for mostly Falmouth boaters.

To protect the eelgrass, the health of the Lake and quality of life, please, please adopt a ban on anchoring in Tashmoo and instead implement the Harbormaster's plan to provide six moorings for visitors. I've been listening to arguments that there's no problem with the anchorage in Tashmoo and that boats don't hurt the eelgrass. We see anchors pulling up eelgrass everyday so we know that argument isn't true. We've also heard folks argue that we shouldn't ban anchoring because it would be a shame if people couldn't enjoy the Lake. We agree that we need to find a way to manage the overwhelming influx of boats while also providing a way for a manageable number of people to enjoy the Lake. While there is no perfect solution to the problem we think the Harbormaster's plan comes close.

You have a unique opportunity to protect this beautiful resource. We are strongly in favor of the plan to install six moorings for day trippers to use so people can still enjoy the Lake but not love it to death. Please help.

Respectfully,
Paul and Jorja Darby
321 Northern Pines Road

Fwd: Good idea: Moratorium on anchoring in Tashmoo

John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Mon 3/6/2023 6:28 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

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From: Lucy Sprayregen <lucypage@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 6:10:20 PM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>

Subject: Good idea: Moratorium on anchoring in Tashmoo

Dear Select Board;

We are definitely in favor of a moratorium on day-tripper anchoring in Tashmoo.

The Harbormaster's suggestion is excellent, and he should know what's best for the lake

As summer residents on Lake Tashmoo for 60 years we have seen the deterioration of the water quality, aquatic life, as well as the increase in loud and rude behavior of the boaters, first hand. It is a serious problem and for the good of the planet, please adopt the Harbormaster's plan.

Thank you,
Peter and Lucy Sprayregen
220 Kuffie's Point Way

lucypage@aol.com

Lucy Page Sprayregen

34 Baker Farm Road

(POB 6014)

Lincoln MA 01773

Cell 617-755-7930

FW: Tashmoo moratorium on anchoring

John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Mon 3/6/2023 2:29 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Phoebe Francis <plfrancis@swinglegacy.com>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:32 AM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>;

Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>

Subject: Tashmoo moratorium on anchoring

Dear Select Board Members,

The Harbor Master's proposal to ban anchoring and instead install six moorings for day trippers deserves the approval of the Select Board. At the very least, it should be implemented for this season to see if it is a viable solution to the on-going problem of over-crowding and its detrimental effects on the Lake.

Sincerely,

Phoebe Francis
220 Kuffie's Point Way
Vineyard Haven

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Fw: Anchoring on Tashmoo

Gerard & Beth,
Thanks so much for your input. See you on the zoom meeting this evening. Attached is the agenda with the zoom sign in info.

John Crocker
Harbormaster
Town of Tisbury
PO Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-696-4249

From: Gerard du Toit <gerardfdutoit@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 5:35 PM
To: John Crocker <jcrocker@tisburyma.gov>
Cc: Beth du Toit <bethdutoit@gmail.com>
Subject: Anchoring on Tashmoo

Hi John

I hope you are doing well.

I understand the Waterways Committee is discussing anchoring on Tashmoo tomorrow, and I plan to join by Zoom. I had previously sent you initial thoughts for a prior meeting, and wanted to follow up with an update on that input in writing, which I've attached.

In short, we are in strong support of the proposal to eliminate anchoring, instead providing a handful of public moorings. This is the best way to still allow public enjoyment while controlling over-crowding and spoiling the experience for everyone.

Thanks
Gerard & Beth

 Reply  Forward

March 3, 2023

Dear Tisbury Select Board,

We live at 75 Kuffies Point Way, with our house, dock, and mooring right at the "top corner" of where anchoring is permitted on Lake Tashmoo. As a boater myself, I understand and support boaters' desire to spend a peaceful day anchored in a beautiful spot like Tashmoo. Most of the visitors to our lake are respectful and polite, and it is fun to see families joyfully paddling through the shallows.

However, every weekend there are at least a few miscreants who drink too much, are loud, blast their music, noisily broadcast a marine radio over their PA system, raft 4 or 5 boats together, tie up on someone else's mooring (including ours, if momentarily unoccupied), anchor uncomfortably close to our dock (not against the rules but rude, and a hazard to navigation), etc. etc.

I want to say to these bad actors, "How would you like it if I parked an RV right outside your house every weekend, when you and your family are relaxing in your yard, and did what you're doing? I think you would immediately call the police to make me take my vehicle elsewhere."

John Crocker and his Harbormaster team have done a good job patrolling regularly and enforcing the rules, but he can't be there all the time and frankly that is not a good use of taxpayers' money. There is always some otherwise peaceful, relaxing moment every summer weekend that is spoiled by an inconsiderate daytripper, before the Harbormaster can come and shut them down. Frankly, I don't see why the Town should be spending money to enforce rules when there is absolutely no benefit from these daytrippers for VH or its residents.

Furthermore, these people are ruining the experience for not only those of us who live on the lake, but everyone else visiting with the expectation of a peaceful day on the water. The lake is becoming ever-more unsustainably overcrowded and jammed on summer weekends. Sometimes it is so tight with boats, floats, rafts, dogs, and everything that it's almost impossible to get our own boats to and from the mooring or dock. (Certainly not my catboat under sail!) A classic "tragedy of the commons" where over-crowding spoils the experience for everyone.

Therefore, we strongly support the Harbormaster's proposal to ban anchoring and instead install around six moorings for day trippers to use, with rafts of up to three boats per mooring. This is no different than how capacity is thoughtfully managed at other public facilities to avoid overcrowding (eg, securing a mooring at a harbor or marina, or an RV campsite at a national park.) Ideally it would be booked & payed for entirely online and checked once a day, with spot fines for violators. Any "bad actors" can be forbidden from anchoring in future. This would allow reasonable, sustainable access for an appropriate number of boaters, be self-funding for the town, and unwind the ever-increasing overcrowding in Tashmoo. Done well, it should reduce, not increase, the burden on the Harbormaster and the Town, and increase the public enjoyment of a day on Tashmoo.

Thank you
Gerard & Beth du Toit

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Fw: Lynne Fraker comments

John Crocker
To: Kim Elias; Colleen Wilson

Thu 3/9/2023 8:09 AM

Process for Recusing and Ab... Roberts-Rules-compressed.pdf

2 attachments (2 MB) Save all to OneDrive - Town of Tisbury Download all

John Crocker
Harbormaster
Town of Tisbury
PO Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-696-4249

From: Nelson Sigelman <nelson.sigelman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:44 PM
To: John Crocker <jcrocker@tisburyma.gov>; clearscintillation@gmail.com <clearscintillation@gmail.com>
Subject: Lynne Fraker comments

John, Matt:

Lynne Fraker singled me out in an email sent to town officials regarding waterways issues. She wrote, "I would like to give a huge shout-out to Nelson Sigelman [sic] who has done a great job managing that anchorage with little supervision, and lots of dedication, and understands it better than *anyone* and perhaps should be given a *position* with real management responsibility." While I appreciate the compliment and recognition. I think it is important to state that I work in close contact with the harbor department and have never thought I lacked the supervision or management responsibility to effectively manage the situation in Tashmoo. On busy days, I keep in close contact with the harbor office. John Crocker responds immediately when called.

On a separate but related matter, after looking at the draft minutes of the last waterways meeting that I attended, I had a few questions about meeting management and Robert's Rules and did a little research for my own education. I think what I found may be helpful, so I've shared them with you. "Process for refusing" pertains to members of a committee who decide, due to a conflict, to recuse themselves. Roberts Rules Compressed pertains to how the meeting is to be conducted (pages 17-18) and what the minutes ought to reflect (pages 11-13).

None of this is meant to be any more than helpful information. And please feel free to share my comments.

Thanks,
Nelson

RE: Tashmoo

John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Wed 3/8/2023 9:14 AM

To: Stacy Schmetterer <stacy@schmetterer.com>

Cc: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

Acknowledging receipt.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stacy Schmetterer <stacy@schmetterer.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 9:41 AM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>

Cc: Bob Schmetterer <bob@schmetterer.com>

Subject: Tashmoo

Dear Select Board

My husband I have owned our home on Tashmoo for 40 years. And what a special place it is. But what is happening during the summer has made the Lake truly uncomfortable to be on and to overlook. The change has been the number of "day trippers". They are noisy and irresponsible which makes our time on Tashmoo over the summer irritating. We are paying very high taxes on Marthas Vineyard and for a good number of us, we use our homes and Tashmoo only in the summer. And the activity in what used to be a very peaceful place has gotten out of hand. That said, we are not proponents of eliminating all visitors to Tashmoo. It is a wonderful place and should be available for other boaters.

We do, however very strongly hope that the barrage of boats in Tashmoo over the summer can be controlled. And believe that it is possible. We like the idea of moorings. Some first come first serve with a limit on the number of rafting boats and no overnights. That will work if you consider putting a few moorings in at the head of Tashmoo that are reserved for cruising boats only. It would need a reservation system like you have in every other harbor and a requirement stay (or payment for) 2 days with a limit of 3 days....payment when reservation is made.

I do not have an opinion on the water pollution that boaters cause since I am not a naturalist. But I find it hard to believe that whatever "damage" is happening for 3 months isn't naturally flushed out the remaining 9. I leave that to the people that truly understand the science.

Our thoughts and hopes

Thank you

Stacy Schmetterer

Bob Schmetterer



March 8, 2023

Tisbury Select Board
PO Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA. 02568

Dear Tisbury Select Board Members and Jay Grande, Town Administrator,

Tisbury Waterways Inc. (TWI) has written to the Town in the past regarding the health of our ponds. Today, we are writing to reiterate those concerns, provide evidence for your consideration, and support for at least a two-year moratorium on anchoring in Lake Tashmoo.

The threat to eelgrass on the floor of Lake Tashmoo drives our concern regarding this issue. Setting, dragging and lifting anchors from the bottom uproots and kills eelgrass which, in turn, weakens the pond's ecosystem. Once eelgrass is lost, restoring the beds is labor intensive and expensive, with few documented success stories.

The Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) states that the presence and health of eelgrass beds is a primary indicator of the health of a water body. A 2021 eelgrass survey of Lake Tashmoo reported evidence of "dense" and "patchy" eelgrass throughout many parts of the pond, including the areas under consideration for an anchoring moratorium. Eelgrass beds provide ecological services such as carbon sequestration and habitat for other marine creatures that provide both recreational and economic value. The Tisbury Eelgrass Committee stated in its 2016 report to the Select Board that "an acre of eelgrass equals 40 acres of forest in its carbon dioxide reduction". Additionally, the US Coast Guard was quoted as stating that eelgrass areas are the "worst places for anchoring". TWI has collected scientific publications for those who would like to read more detailed reports on the importance of eelgrass. These are on our website at tisburywaterways.org. One of these reports, "Eelgrass of Cape Cod National Seashore", from the National Park Service, states:

Since eelgrass constructs the physical habitat of many sea creatures, when outside factors impact the health and growth of eelgrass, the coastal ecosystem as a whole is affected. Being interconnected in the food web, many species rely on eelgrass beds and meadows not only for food, but for shelter as well. When these meadows disappear, so does wildlife. In some cases, whole populations can be decimated

from a lack of eelgrass. For example, the Atlantic bay scallop heavily relies on eelgrass as it clings to the plant in order to stay above the muddy bottom. As more strain is put on eelgrass beds, populations of bay scallops have reduced in recent decades. Not only is wildlife impacted, but without eelgrass root structures and rhizomes, sediment at the seafloor is not as stabilized and secure leading to the possibility of erosion and flooding.

TWI applauds the recent decision of the Town to pursue a Targeted Wastewater Management Plan (TWMP) for Tashmoo and its extensive watershed that will seek to limit the amount of nitrogen feeding into the estuary to the state-established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Achieving and maintaining the TMDL goal is critical to protect the pond's ecosystem and, particularly, the health of eelgrass beds which are essential to the pond's health and vitality. Solutions under consideration include: completion of the State Road sewer project, stormwater improvements to areas such as West Spring St. and Lake St. where effluent with high bacteria levels from rain is carried without treatment to the lake; reduction of fertilizer use; and the installation of Innovative Alternative system retrofits. The Town has a history of taking steps to protect Lake Tashmoo. As one example, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in regular dredging of the channel that results in better flushing of the lake and maintains access for boaters.

The Tisbury Board of Health, a leader in Nitrogen management on the Cape and Islands, has tightened its regulations to prohibit the addition of nitrogen to the pond by requiring the installation of Innovative Alternative (IA) nitrogen-removing systems in the watershed. While this is an important step, it will take years for an adequate number of these systems to be installed to impact total nitrogen levels going into the pond, unless funding is provided. The anchoring moratorium under consideration is something we can do right now to protect the lake's eelgrass beds, during which time a future course of action will be considered as part of the TWMP.

We also support the Harbormaster's suggestion to install either 6 conservation moorings or pilings spread throughout the pond to allow for day-time boaters to continue to visit the lake, with no impact on eelgrass beds.

We all love this incredible resource that has nourished and sustained generations, but those who are tasked with the responsibility now must take protective steps so that it is not "loved to death" on our watch.

Sincerely,

The TWI Board

Jean Lewellyn, Bev Potsaid, Gerry Hokanson, Bob Landreth, Ray Lincoln, Lorraine Wells, Sandy Cannon-Brown, Rick Homans, Edwin Lewis, Ann Fay Lawton, Carole Abrahams, Melinda Loberg



Tisbury Shellfish Department

PO Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-774-1279

March 8, 2023

To the Select Board,

I wanted to weigh-in on the recommendation brought forth to eliminate anchoring in Tashmoo at the Select Board meeting February 8, 2023,

I believe it's a noble cause to eliminate anchoring in Tashmoo, if we do this, we will see a reduction of boats over all in the pond, we will eliminate the amount of eelgrass being pulled up by anchors, these efforts will reduce the boats and the people and amount of urine, noise, and parting, that happens on Tashmoo currently. An added benefit would be to redefine this Tashmoo anchoring area with respects to the NSSP model ordinance, by reducing the summertime shellfish closure to keep this area open.

The eelgrass survey from 2021-22 shows us that there is a large amount of eelgrass throughout Lake Tashmoo. So, between the flats, (where anchoring is already prohibited) the mooring fields and the presence of eelgrass there is very little area for boaters to anchor.

What should happen is a larger discussion, with those closely involved on how to implement such rules and regulations. We need big signage, additional patrol of that area, etc. these things all take time, energy, and money. If we are going to eliminate anchoring, we need outreach to neighboring harbors, towns and for us to get the appropriate signs, pamphlets, etc. made for boaters, and a few fixed moorings for a boater to use. I do support the idea of having a set number of moorings for some of the boaters to use on a first come first serve basis. Don't get me wrong I want to see this actually come to light as we need to become better stewards of our ponds and protect what we have here.

I want to also bring you back to 2016, where the Tisbury has made great strides for the protection of eelgrass. In 2016 we had a Shellfish Committee and an Eelgrass Committee, both of which brought forth changes to regulations and for your approval. Heck, in April of that year Sheri Caseau, MVC's Water Planner, and I gave a presentation on the benefits of eelgrass in a report that's still on the Town's website. In June of that year, the Shellfish Committee met with the board to discuss use of teeth on scallop drags, prohibiting the use in Tisbury waters, and in October we banned dragging for scallops in Tashmoo.

The Eelgrass Committee proposed changes to ban anchoring in eelgrass, these regulations were mentioned in the September 20, 2016, minutes. Only part of this was voted on by the selectmen at the time and it pertained to Drew's Cove not all eelgrass beds. The Board then gave this to the Harbor Management Committee for them to comment on. November 1, the Selectmen should have codified the NO ANCHORING recommendation to their regulations, and have it added it to the Waterways regulations, but this never happened.

What I believe should happen is that the SB should also revisit the original regulation set forth by the Eelgrass Committee to prohibit anchoring in eelgrass. Yes, we should also prohibit anchoring in Tashmoo, but I would also like to see the anchoring discussion go beyond the scope of Tashmoo and discuss where and if need to add an anchor only areas, to other water bodies.

These are my thoughts on the subject and if the plan is set forth let's discuss implementation of the 2016 recommendations and solidify what we proposed.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DE' or 'Dewart', written in a cursive style.

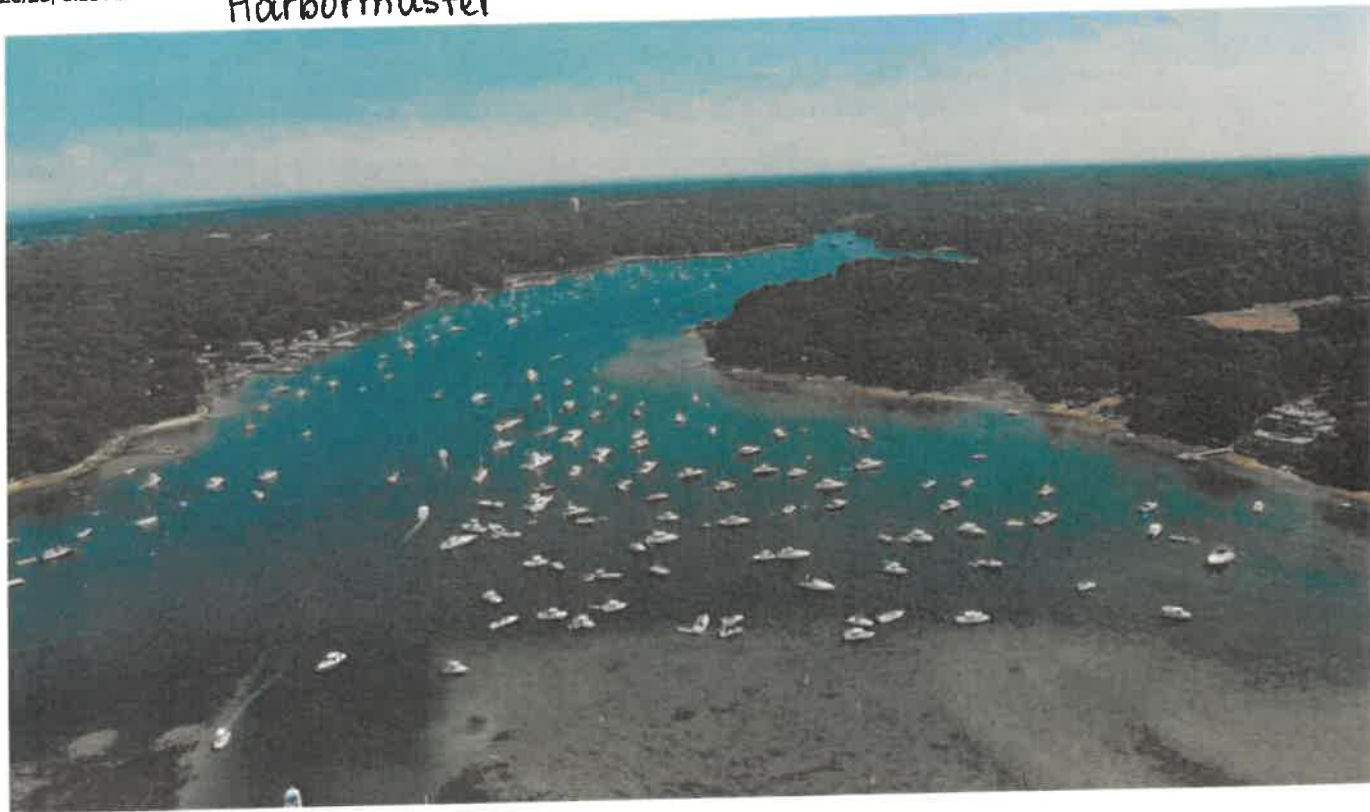
Danielle Ewart

Tisbury Shellfish Constable

3/20/23, 9:55 AM

Harbormaster

Mail - Elena DeFoe - Outlook



Clarifications Tashmoo Anchoring Discussion

John Crocker <jcrocker@tisburyma.gov>

Thu 3/9/2023 9:05 AM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>

Cc: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; Kim Elias <k Elias@tisburyma.gov>

Good Morning,

There were a couple statements made at yesterday's meeting that I believe require clarification.

There was a statement that Tashmoo is a State pond. The only State ponds in MA are fresh water and are located in State parks. The State of MA owns the bottom out to 3 nautical miles as verified by our attorney Bill Hewig. The State cedes authority to the duly appointed Harbormaster to control this area. **I would not call Lake Tashmoo a State pond.**

Regarding statements made concerning Nelson Siegelman. Nelson sent Matt Hobart, Chair of the Waterways Committee, and me an unsolicited email yesterday afternoon at 1:44, prior to your meeting. Here's the relevant section. If you would like me to forward you the entire email please let me know.

John, Matt:

Lynne Fraker singled me out in an email sent to town officials regarding waterways issues.


She wrote, "I would like to give a huge shout-out to Nelson Siegelman [sic] who has done a great job managing that anchorage with little supervision, and lots of dedication, and understands it better than *anyone* and perhaps should be given a *position* with real management responsibility."





While I appreciate the compliment and recognition. I think it is important to state that I work in close contact with the harbor department and have never thought I lacked the supervision or management responsibility to effectively manage the situation in Tashmoo. On busy days, I keep in close contact with the harbor office. John Crocker responds immediately when called.

John Crocker
Harbormaster
Town of Tisbury
PO Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-696-4249

 Delete  Archive  Report  Reply  Reply all  Forward   

Tashmoo anchoring moratorium Support

 Lucy Sprayregen <lucypage@aol.com>
To: John Crocker

    ...
Thu 3/9/2023 10:00 AM

Dear Mr.Crocker,

My husband Peter and I support your suggestion for an anchoring moratorium in Tashmoo. This initiative is vital for the health of the Lake and these environmental issues must be addressed now!

We are one of the families who own homes near the current anchorage zones, and we do not resent young families with children enjoying a summer day on the water, but there are many other visitors who are very disrespectful. No doubt all the visitors jump overboard to relieve themselves. It is lamentable that the Town does not have the resources to check on heads, and cite loud music. All visitors should prefer a clean body of water to enjoy.

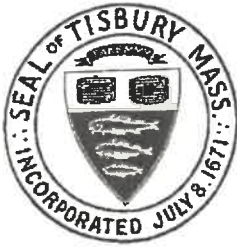
We also see the anchors being pulled up, covered with mud and grasses. To say this is not damaging the eel grasses is absurd.

Thank you very much for your work

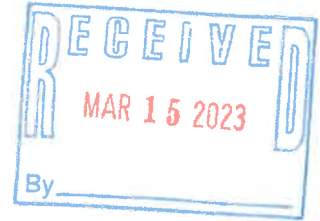
Peter and Lucy Sprayregen

220 Kuffie's Point Way
36 Franklin Street

 Reply  Forward



TOWN OF TISBURY
WATERWAYS COMMITTEE
BOX 1239 - 51 SPRING STREET
VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS 02568
TEL: (508) 696-4249
FAX: (508) 693-5876



Date; March 10, 2023

To; Tisbury Select Board

From; Tisbury Waterways Committee

The Waterways Committee met in person and remotely via zoom on March 9, 2023, at 5:00pm. There was a quorum of five. After discussion regarding the Lake Tashmoo Anchorage, the Committee recommend to the Select Board to proceed with the Harbormaster's recommendation to install 6 pilings to be used as moorings and only allow anchoring at the South end of Drew's Cove.

Matt Hobart, Chair
Tisbury Waterways Committee

FW: Form submission from: Contact Us

Heidi Rydzewski <hrydzewski@tisburyma.gov>

Wed 3/15/2023 2:00 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

No sure you got this.

-----Original Message-----

From: Town of Tisbury MA via Town of Tisbury MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 7:40 AM

To: Heidi Rydzewski <hrydzewski@tisburyma.gov>

Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Friday, March 10, 2023 - 7:40am Submitted by anonymous user: 208.30.103.70 Submitted values are:

Subject: General Comments - For the Board of Selectmen

Message:

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

I am writing to express my concern about the changes being considered regarding anchoring in Lake Tashmoo.

I first came to the island in the late '70's and have been an island homeowner for almost 30 years, first on Chappaquiddick, and for the last 18 years I have resided in a campground cottage in the MVCMA.

I have a '19 NorthCoast center console boat which I keep moored in Sengekontacket Pond. One of my favorite day trips is to fish Middle Ground. When it's time for lunch, there is nothing like heading in to Tashmoo for a picnic lunch and a swim. It's the only sheltered anchorage between Vineyard Haven and Menemsha. Yes, some people play music on their boats. It annoys the heck out of me, too. To get rid of anchoring because of this nuisance would be tragic. Perhaps signs such as "absolutely no amplified music allowed in the pond" and "those boats playing amplified music will lose the right to anchor in Tashmoo" next to the No Wake signs may make a difference.

I can understand the frustrations of the Tashmoo waterfront homeowners. In the campground where I reside there are many issues that come up as a result of the number of people that come through our lovely community. My personal pet peeve is the loud drunk people that pass through and wake everyone up when the bars close down. We also have busloads of retired folks who show up in September to stroll around. Even though they are respectful the sheer numbers create problems. We continue as an association to balance access with concerns of the cottage owners. The dream of all residents? A wall so we can all live our lives in peace and quiet. A wall to keep everyone but the residents out (yes, there actually was one once) would cause an uproar and for good reason. We just have to continue to balance public access with the rights of the cottage owners.

Imagine if you will that every place soon the island where people represent a nuisance starts piling on rules to get rid of the nuisance. There would be no more visiting Wasque because the visitors make the ferry lines too long. There would be no more non-resident parking on State Beach because there's not

enough for us OB folks who live there. Sorry, Jabberwocky, that means you too. You get the picture. All towns could come up with more and more restrictions because we all remember what it used to be like in the past. The past is the past and the more access that is restricted, the less like the past things will be.

I also want to add that I hope I don't have to hear any more about "people are not spending money here therefore we don't want to grant them anchorage." Humans are more than economic units and it's appalling to hear them (and me) referred to in that way.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Caitlin McNally

==Please provide the following information== Your Name: Caitlin McNally Your E-mail Address: caitlinreadmcnally@yahoo.com <<mailto:caitlinreadmcnally@yahoo.com>>

Organization:

Phone Number: 6174806379

==Address==

Street: 7 Clinton Ave

City: Oak Bluffs

State: Massachusetts

Zipcode: 02557

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.tisbury.ma.gov/node/2/submission/8091>

<<https://u13876194.ct.sendgrid.net/wf/open?upn=ya5ikpQkE8FTqzXVv54hFu1lq-2F2Cxrrib1laoSZJbS-2Bz5eU51QREdPYe-2FMFKARIMHaGbLu7ZxojXZQjoR9EqkcyXLIUKnf8kL0sxxGLFDO8C3GOMLQgl-2FshggwchxynHStYKi0VUOE5T-2FvZCYjLQlaVZCALmUID1NAxV5cQZmpo-2FjJgzLQwGFepKXf9vQlqnyKQVCUINgJtV5eRONvf2gmwRqZbquFIQGHun-2BhsBQCw-3D>>

Tom and Marilyn Hopkins
310 Norton Ave.
Tisbury 02568

Emails: thop310@gmail.com
marilynhopkins@gmail.com
#508 274 0399 (cell)

REGARDING: A MORATORIUM ON MOORING IN LAKE TASHMOO

To: Tisbury Selectboard
March 14, 2021

We are writing on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors to advocate for a **full moratorium on anchoring from June 1st to October 1st in the designated area (the Northwest anchorage)**, an issue currently under discussion, still allowing transient boaters to anchor in Drew's cove or the SW anchorage. This will be simpler to enforce and/or patrol, if there is no ambiguity. A full moratorium for this coming summer 2023, and perhaps the next 2024, will allow time to research and design a future plan for everyone's benefit.

Lake Tashmoo is a natural resource with an ecology (i.e. water, eelgrass, clam flats, etc.) that needs to be preserved. We also need to preserve the *essence* of the place. When you pass into Tashmoo through the cut, you experience a huge sigh of relief. You're greeted by the osprey, oyster catchers on the sandbar, terns diving for minnows, schoolie stripers breaking the surface~ a secluded calm quiet place, very different from the sound...

But, on summer weekends especially, you're confronted by rafts of boats jockeying for position. Lots of people, making lots of noise... The quietness is impacted by the rafting of boats, anchorage and/or leaving through the narrow channel. It is incongruous to the nature of Tashmoo, the calmness of Tashmoo. Tashmoo is being loved to death by the transient boaters; they've come to play, a human interaction not special to the nature of Tashmoo. Without doubt they're having lots of fun but it is an accident waiting to happen. Moreover, dropping hundreds, maybe thousands, of anchors over the summer impacts the bottom, prohibiting eelgrass from ever growing. The transient boater problem has to be studied very carefully and then solutions drawn up.

Consider the fact that Cape Pogue and Menemsha both have restrictions on anchoring, and they are much, much larger than little Tashmoo. Numbers of visitors are restricted at some island beaches. Landbank conservation properties are carefully studied and limits are placed on the number of visitors to maintain the ecological integrity of the property. National parks are the same way; you can't have 10,000 people going to Yosemite a day and expect to maintain the natural beauty of Yosemite; therefore, the number of visitors and campers are limited. You can't just show up! The goal is for people to appreciate and enjoy the environment in harmony with nature, not to destroy it in the process.

Tashmoo has to be managed and needs a complete management program.

Transient boaters anchoring in this area are not the only concern. Water quality needs to be remediated. Addressing all the issues that we can possibly control is essential. We can control street runoff, fertilizer use and septic systems. We can limit excessive and/or detrimental anchorage. We can make time for and conduct the necessary research and come up with solutions.

We can save Tashmoo. It's within our power.

Thank you for soliciting letters and listening to our opinion. On behalf of those of us who love and care about Lake Tashmoo, we appreciate your efforts to preserve Lake Tashmoo.

Sincerely,
Tom and Marilyn Hopkins
Anne Ronella Holmes
Leif Hopkins and Lea Cardona
George and Alison Hughes
Aleca Hughes McPherson and Tyler J McPherson
Josiane and John Barnes

Lake Tashmoo

Kim Maleh <klmaleh@me.com>

Wed 3/15/2023 12:34 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

Dear Select Committee:

As a homeowner on Lake Tashmoo, our family supports the March 9 recommendation of the Harbormaster and the Waterways Committee about limiting anchorage. Over the years, we have seen an increase in noise, drinking and overcrowdedness. We have concerns about nitrogen levels and shore erosion due to people speeding down channel and then using the lake as a toilet and trash can. We are constantly cleaning up the shores of broken beer bottles and cans. We hope you support their recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Kim and Paul Maleh

Sent from my iPhone

Tashmoo anchorage

Lucy Sprayregen <lucypage@aol.com>

Thu 3/16/2023 12:51 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

We are writing to express enthusiastic support for the Harbormaster's initiative for saving Tashmoo from overuse and destructive anchoring by day boats.

Please vote to enact John Crocker's project to install six moorings for tie-ups, saving the bottom of the lake and new eel grasses from ruination.

Thank you
Peter and Lucy Sprayregen
220 Kuffie's Point Way
36 Franklin Street
Vineyard Haven

lucypage@aol.com
Lucy Page Sprayregen
34 Baker Farm Road
(POB 6014)
Lincoln MA 01773
Cell 617-755-7930

Anchoring in Tashmoo

Phoebe Francis <plfrancis@swinglegacy.com>

Thu 3/16/2023 9:02 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

I urge the Select Board to approve the Harbor Master's recommendation to install six pilings in Lake Tashmoo to be used as moorings. Anchoring should only be allowed in the southern portion of Drew's Cove.

Thank you for your consideration. Tashmoo must be saved.

Phoebe Francis
220 Kuffies Point Way
Tisbury, MA

Re Waterways commission on anchoring in Tashmoo**Tweed Roosevelt <tweedr@sprynet.com>**

Fri 3/17/2023 9:06 AM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>**To: The Town of Tisbury Select Board****From: Tweed Roosevelt****Re: Tashmoo anchoring****Date: March 17, 2023**

I have lived on and studied Lake Tashmoo since I was a young boy more than 70 years ago. I spent hours swimming and scuba diving on the lake and observing and collecting all manner of wild life. I remember from those days the eel grass, pipefish, blue claws, oysters on the groins, steamers, razors, and quahogs, thousands of baby scallops, moon shells, horseshoe crabs, sea worms of all sorts, schools of small fish, and much more. It was a healthy and productive environment from which many islanders supplemented their incomes. Over the years, I have seen Lake Tashmoo slowly degrade to what we have now, a mere shadow of a once vibrant eco system. Lake Tashmoo is not dead, but it is on life support.

We need to do what we can restore the lake to what it was. We also need to let boaters use Lake Tashmoo for recreation in ways that minimize their environmental impact. The current approach is not working. From my house at the end of Northern Pines Road I have counted 150 or more boats anchored on a summer weekend. As far as I can tell, these boaters contribute nothing to the Island's economy. They do, however, create significant costs, both financial and environmental, in enforcing regulations and cleaning up the bottles, cans and other trash they leave behind. Moreover, they make a lot of noise, clam without licenses, occasionally trespass, and sometimes even worse. Most damaging, they pollute the lake with oil and gas, human waste, and all manner of other substances. Their anchors tear up the lake bed, preventing eel grass from taking hold. The list could go on.

I am not a proponent of banning them outright, just controlling them within reasonable and sustainable limits and reducing their environmental impact as much as possible. I favor an approach that limits their numbers, controls their behavior, and protects the lake. Any plan similar to the one proposed by the Waterways committee will have my support.

Signed

Tweed Roosevelt, Island resident and property owner on Tashmoo since the early 1950's

Tweed Roosevelt
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
tweedr@sprynet.com
508-693-3199



Dear Mr. Grande, Mr. Cutrer, Mr. Cahill and Ms. Burt,

We live on the west side of Lake Tashmoo, "ground zero" of the designated anchoring area. Our family has lived seasonally in this beautiful spot since 1939 and so we've seen many, many changes over the years and most not for the good. For example, we used to have oysters along the shore and an abundance of scallops, blue claw crabs, horseshoe crabs and eel grass. Sadly, the oysters are gone and scallops, blue claw and horse shoe crabs are very few and far between. The eelgrass all but disappeared.

In 2021 the Department of Marine Fisheries conducted a sonar scan of some parts of the Lake bottom and we were heartened to hear they saw "patchy" eelgrass trying to gain a foothold in a few areas just inside the Lake. They also found "dense" eelgrass in the upper two-thirds of the Lake. Many years ago the Town banned anchoring in the upper two-thirds of the Lake to protect areas where eelgrass was found. The good news it seems the Town's action to protect the eelgrass worked. This gives us great hope that if we act to protect the area just inside the Lake we can encourage the eelgrass to grow there and become dense...a huge boon for the overall health of the Lake and marine life.

Over the years we've also seen an alarming increase in the number of boats visiting Tashmoo for the day. Since the area west of the channel is the only anchorage available boats are all concentrated there. It is not at all unusual for 100 boats to anchor on weekends and up to 40 during the week. The huge majority of the boats are from Falmouth, a quick trip from Tashmoo. On nice summer days boats begin arriving around 10:30 am and the last of them leave at sunset. For every 100 boats even more than 100 anchors are set and hauled as boats come and go throughout the day and some of those anchors pull up what little eelgrass is trying to grow. We see it every day.

The crush of boats and people in Tashmoo often ruins what should be peaceful summer days. With that many people there are inevitably those with loud radios, those trying to anchor in the channel or in the shellfish beds, picking up moorings that don't belong to them, rafting five or more boats or coming ashore to trespass. The Harbormaster does a good job of patrolling regularly to enforce the rules and to respond to noise complaints but he and his staff can't be everywhere all of the time. (The dance parties begin after 5pm.) Nor do I think it makes any sense for Tisbury taxpayers to have to provide and patrol an anchorage for mostly Falmouth boaters who contribute nothing to the town's economy.

To protect the eelgrass, the health of the Lake and quality of life, please, please adopt a ban on anchoring in Tashmoo and instead implement the Harbormaster's plan to provide six moorings for visitors. I've been hearing arguments that there's no problem with the anchorage in Tashmoo and that boats don't hurt the eelgrass. We see anchors pulling up eelgrass everyday so we know that argument isn't true. We've also heard folks argue that we shouldn't ban anchoring because it would be a shame if people couldn't enjoy the Lake. We agree that we need to find a way to manage the overwhelming influx of boats while also providing a way for a manageable number of people to enjoy the Lake. While there is probably no perfect solution to the problem we think the Harbormaster's plan comes close.

You have a unique opportunity to protect this beautiful resource. We are strongly in favor of the plan to install six moorings for day trippers to use so people can still enjoy the Lake but not love it to death. Please help.

Respectfully,
Paul and Jorja Darby
321 Northern Pines Road

3/17/23, 8:35 AM

Mail - Elena DeFoe - Outlook



3/17/23, 8:35 AM

Mail - Elena DeFoe - Outlook





Tashmoo

sukideb1 <sukideb1@aol.com>

Fri 3/17/2023 10:20 PM

To: Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

Good morning Ms Defoe,

I am writing to you, having learned that you are currently accepting comments regarding the proposal by Tashmoo's harbor master John Crocker, to change to mooring balls from the current anchor situation That prevails.

Although we have visited our friends the Sprayregens who are Tashmoo residents of long standing, for short day visits from Edgartown and carefully dropped our anchor, it is the alarming rise in the number of non-Island boaters who flock to drop their anchors there to spend the day or the weekend, that must be diminished to protect the eel grass, the shellfish and the overall environment.

Once these vital resources are gone, it will be very expensive to restore them, if in fact they ever can be brought back again. Please manage them while there is still time.

Thank you for your consideration of our concern.

Sincerely,

Barbara de Bragança

Sent from my iPhone

Tashmoo anchorage permit proposal

Lynne <captlynne@yahoo.com>

Sun 3/19/2023 9:47 PM

To: Matt Hobart <clearscintillation@gmail.com>; Roger Moffat <roger.moffat@gmail.com>; greg-martino@hotmail.com <greg-martino@hotmail.com>; Michael Baptiste <tashmoobootyard@yahoo.com>; Jeffrey Canha <reelucky@gmail.com>

Cc: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; John Crocker <jcrocker@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>; Pam Bennett <pbennett@tisburyma.gov>

I sent the email below on Friday, to a large number of people interested in Tashmoo and Tisbury Waterways in general. This email is going out to an even broader audience, BCC, to allow a review of my managed anchorage day permit proposal referred to in the Friday email.

You may not agree, but please consider an alternate proposal that reduces the anchorage area, controls the number of boats, and can be implemented immediately and monetized easily. Everyone deserves to be heard. Try it for this year.

It wasn't until late Friday that I finally received the few letters and emails sent to the Select Board and Waterways Committee in response to the "moratorium" proposed by the Town Administrator. I was very surprised and disappointed to see that my well-researched proposal, sent to the Select Board on Feb 12, 2023, at the request of the SB Chair, was NOT included in the package. The Town Administrator had emailed a response to my proposal saying he doubted the ability of the Natural Resource Dept to manage even a reduced anchorage and wanted a moratorium. That is not a valid reason to keep the public out. Mac Schilcher's letter was also not included. Mac's proposal is also attached below.

I also sent my anchoring permit proposal to the Waterways Committee on Feb 14. I fully respect the Waterways Committee, but I do not believe that the Committee thoroughly read any of the letters or my proposal which was not in the packet they received. Waterways does not want to see an anchoring moratorium, although ultimately did vote 6 pilings with anchoring in the SE. That Committee is also down by two members.

The overwhelming theme was the frustration with noise, the number of boats, the failure of management, and the lack of patrolling. All legitimate concerns. There was some false information, including what happened in 2016, but that is to be expected. Not everyone wants to see an anchoring moratorium, and all want to see a reduction of numbers and *reasonable* control. A few even mentioned a day permit program. See my proposal.

The inability of the Harbormaster to manage the anchorage is in every letter. The only option offered has been the moratorium and installation of 6 pilings. With no plan. Pilings are permanent. The cost of installing 6 pilings will be over \$30,000. This is not a private pond and there is plenty of space to allow a more reasonable number of boats in to spend a few hours. Please read my proposal and advocate for a one-year trial.

The Tisbury PD will have a boat in operation this season and will give a real boost to management and enforcement. The Asst Harbormaster has resigned and hopefully, the new hire will also have management and people skills. I suggest that management and day permits for the visiting boats be given to the Open Space Committee in consultation with the Harbor Dept.

If you have already read my email from Friday just scroll down and PLEASE at least review my attached proposal for a reduced and managed anchorage. I have also attached Mac's plan, which is a bit different from mine. Every proposal should be heard and considered.

Thank you for caring and taking the time to view all options.

Lynne

This is the original email sent to many on Friday, March 17.

There is no reason for an anchoring moratorium in Tashmoo. What is needed is management and very specific, enforceable regulations. At the June Waterways meeting, the stakeholders were looking for a management plan that would reduce the number of boats, not a moratorium. The anchorage area was originally chosen because there was very little eelgrass there. It is in the same condition as it was in 2016. It is possible to have a managed anchorage. It is not always so crowded and it is weather dependent. Public access should be a priority.

Nelson Seigelman wrote a letter that clearly explains the situation within the anchorage. Nelson has been the main manager of that area with little guidance and no power of enforcement. The Harbormaster is only there occasionally and has not given Nelson any credit for his hard work. The photo recently presented to you does not reflect the work Nelson did to place buoys along the edge of the clam flats and the buoys placed along the south end of the anchorage to protect fragile areas. Give Nelson the ability to enforce. He can do it nicely and forcefully if necessary.

Several proposals have been presented to you. It will require a permit process which can be handled online by the system currently used by the Natural Resource Dept. As the amount of visitors to our beautiful Island increases it is necessary to control access. Land Bank does it with limited parking. We can do it by limiting the number of boats.

There will need to be very specific, enforceable regulations. There are no existing regulations for this area. For example, if a boat extends past the designated area, it must leave. Noise regulations. Brochures with rules, regs, etc should be implemented again. Readable signage.

The broken pumpout boat is a problem. Can it be patched enough to stay tied permanently in the slip so boats that need a PO can come to the dock? The Harbormaster has already stated that the PO does not get a lot of use. The boats in the anchorage near the opening do not use the PO, but others at moorings and SE anchorage need the PO boat occasionally.

The management of the anchored boats has been a problem for years and has gotten worse. The Natural Resource Dept has not managed any part of Tashmoo. No management of moorings, issues on the Lake Street Dock, or the dinghy dock. No fair enforcement of existing regulations including pumpout regulations. No plan to control anchoring except to call it chaos and eliminate it.

Eelgrass will not grow anywhere in Tashmoo until the water quality at the end of the pond is improved. Although TWI believes they have the magic bullet to work on septic systems, and this should be pursued, it will take years to be effective. TWI and the Board of Health have done nothing to fix the issues that would have made a big difference. Runoff from pipes directly into Tashmoo and enforcement of existing fertilizer regulations have had no priority. Zoning regulations have no priority and the building of large homes and the destruction of native plants along the banks are part of the problem. The desire of some to not see anchored boats has been a problem. Their answer is to eliminate anchored boats which are not the problem.

3/20/23, 10:28 AM

Mail - Elena DeFoe - Outlook

Lynne Fraker
PO Box 4124 Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 508-627-0848
www.sailena.com

Letter by Mac Schlicher:

The pie graph is from 2017 the highlighted text is from 1998. Please give us a small half acre anchoring yard 100 yards away from any marked eelgrass beds. Only let 10-15 boats anchor there. Ban anchoring on weekends or summer, or without harbormasters permission. Don't take that anchoring yard for yourselves the whole year. Don't blame boaters enjoying the pond for a few hours a day on weekend in summer for the Eelgrass not coming back (16 days a year.)

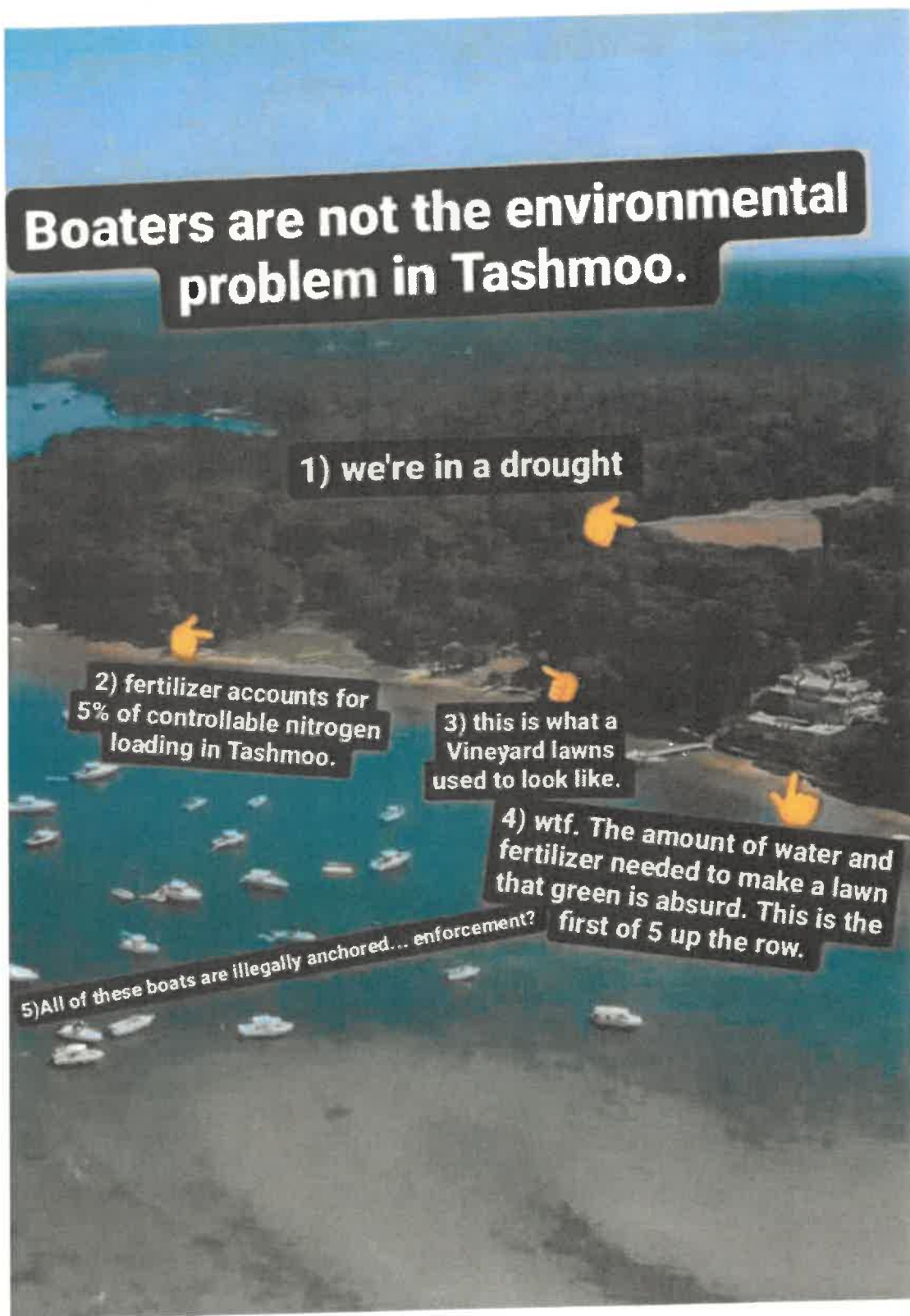
Give town residents who are recreational users of this treasured place something, take weekends or July and August anchoring away, most are too busy working to get out there anyways. Please, look within and think of a better solution than driving stakes into Tashmoo. If we all love Tashmoo let's be all about the Eelgrass and just don't take that world class view and clam flat all for yourselves. Stop with the lawns and castle complex for goodness sake, the nitrogen running into the pond from these homes alone are actively killing the pond.

This controllable nitrogen load is introduced into the fresh ocean water during the necessary high/low tide exchange in the back. This is a big part of the eelgrass issue, the critical target for water quality necessary for eelgrass to return is at sentinel station in the back and these homes barely give that water exchange a chance. That's not even factoring in the golf course in the watershed on the other side. Give us June and September at least please. It's not boaters causing Eelgrass issues.

The pie graph is from 2017 the highlighted text is from 1998. Please give us a small half acre anchoring yard 100 yards away from any marked eelgrass beds. Only let 10-15 boats anchor there. Ban anchoring on weekends or summer, or without harbormasters permission. Don't take that anchoring yard for yourselves the whole year. Don't blame boaters enjoying the pond for a few hours a day on weekend in summer for the Eelgrass not coming back (16 days a year.)

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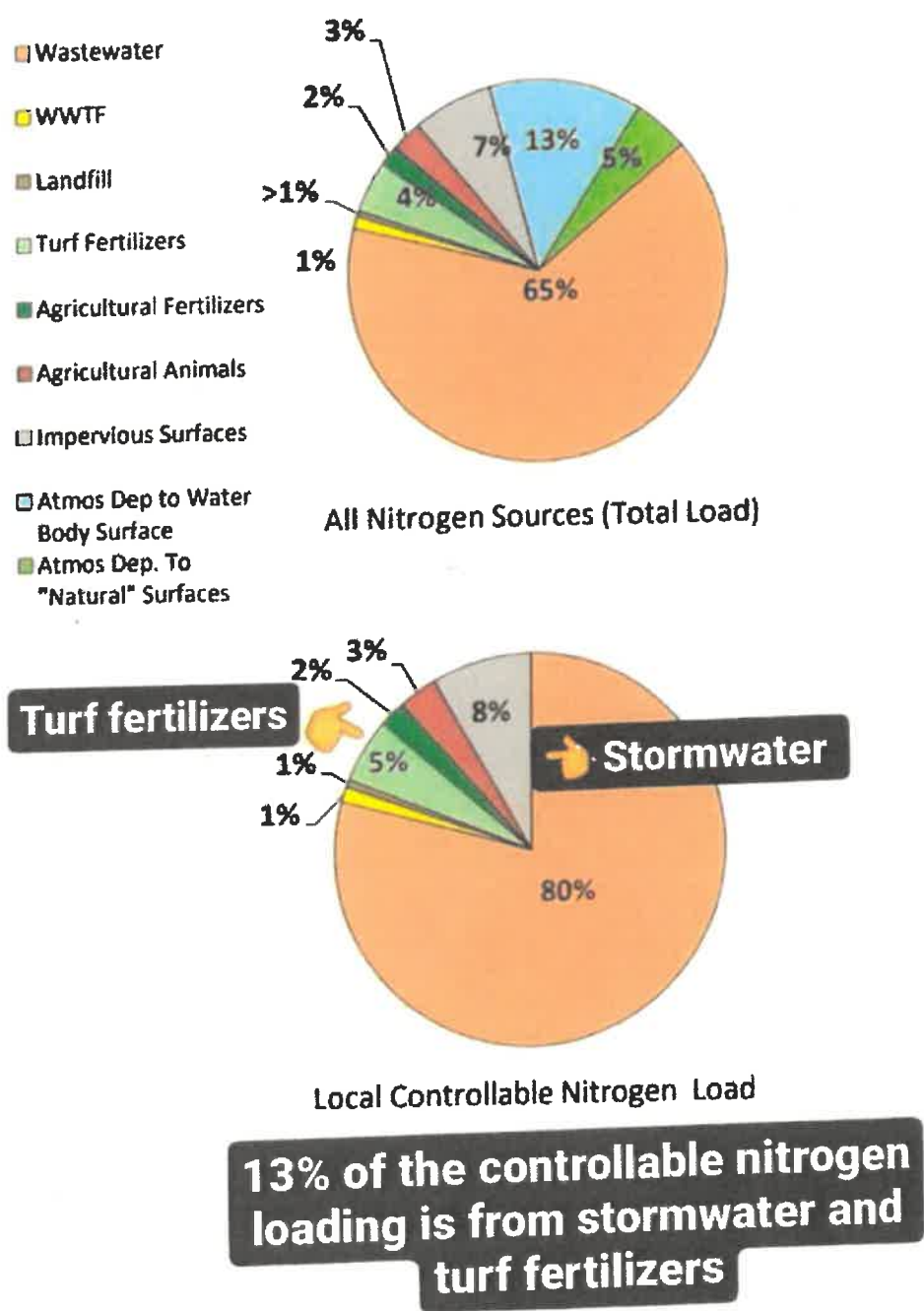


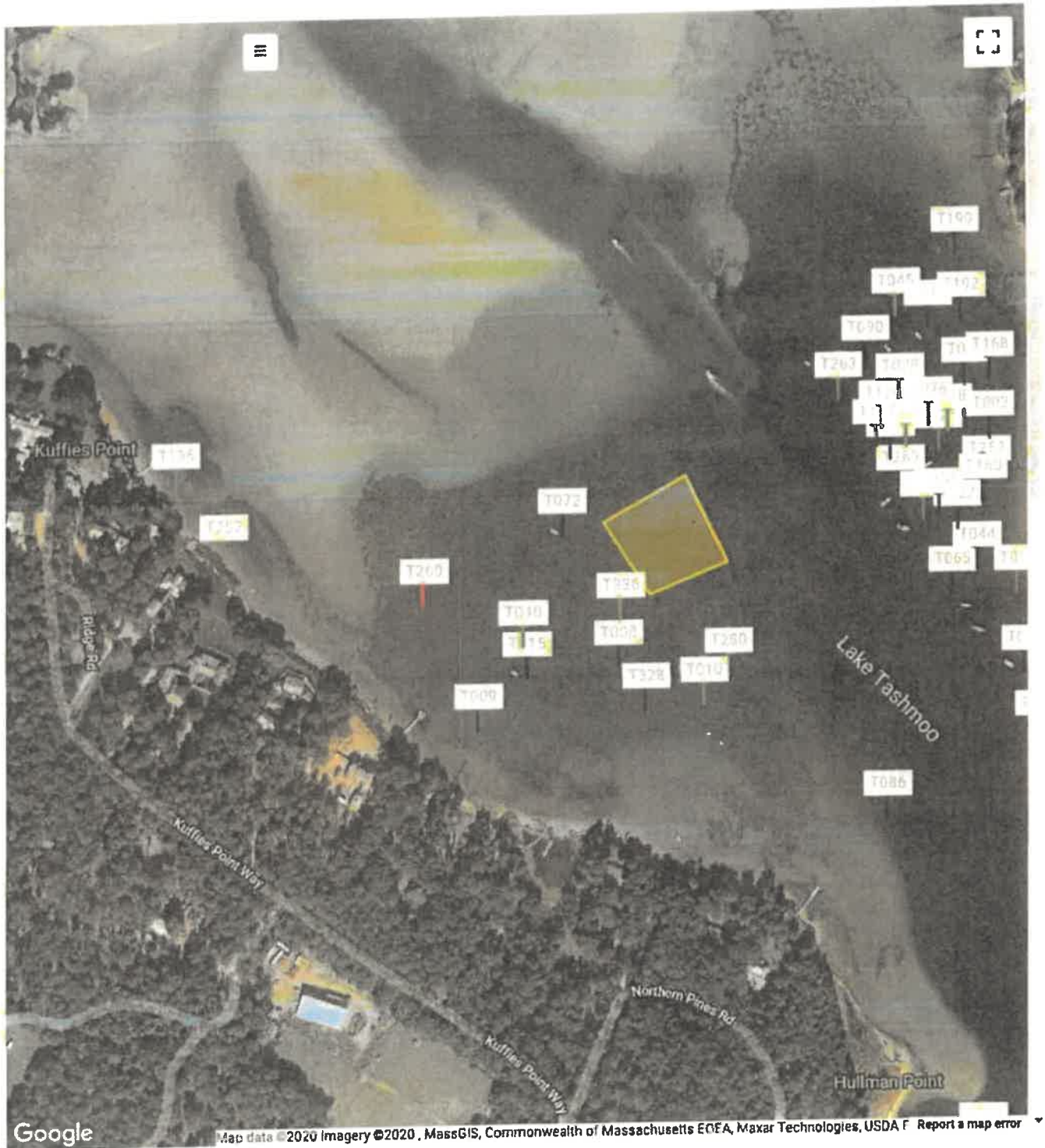
Letter by Mac Schlicher:



Letter by Mac Schlicher:

Figure ES-1: Percent Contributions of Nitrogen Sources to Lake Tashmoo





Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

According to the Massachusetts Estuaries Project's 2017 TMDL survey, stormwater accounts for eight per cent of the controllable nitrogen loading in Tashmoo. In coming weeks, Tisbury will install a multi-baffled basin at Grove street beach fully funded by the EPA. The prior significant stormwater project was a rain garden bioswale on Owen Little Way. Neither of these nitrogen loading mitigation projects are in either the threatened Tashmoo or Lagoon pond watersheds.

Some of Tisbury's long-term efforts confronting nitrogen loading from wastewater are shown in its pilot program to install nine experimental NitROE® systems with state grants at minimal cost to homeowners. The locations were selected by the town, yet not all went to year-round homes and the TMDL report says [what's] "important is the density of homes. Larger home density means more nitrogen being discharged thus the density typically determines where to sewer (i.e. nitrogen mitigation) to maximize reductions."

And in order to afford the school renovation, Tisbury needs to focus its resources on projects/locations that give us the most bang for the buck. Stormwater projects should be inside the watersheds and subsidized NitROE® systems allocated to the heaviest users (i.e year round homes.)

As a hearing on an anchoring moratorium is being presented as the first step in a comprehensive watershed management plan, the process illustrates why Tisbury's public policy-making is so inefficient. This has been on the select board agenda twice but the waterways committee is presenting its recommendation for the first time during the public hearing. The six-year awaited, long-needed management plan is also being crammed into the same meeting — that on top of any other town business that needs to be discussed.

Despite the restricted anchorage zones and scallop dragging ban enacted in 2017, the recent DMF Eelgrass survey found "limited change in the overall extent of the eelgrass meadow between 2013 and 2021."

Eelgrass habitat is not an anchored boaters issue; it's a pretext. The TMDL reads "eelgrass will not return until the water quality conditions improve." In the six years since its publication the town has never meaningfully dealt with fertilizer or stormwater in Tashmoo. Half of the golf course is in the watershed; boaters aren't the issue.

If you want to fix the issue of overuse on the weekends during the summer, do it the old Vineyard way; cheap, well planned and executed. To rid Tashmoo of boaters on the weekends or during the summer, ban anchoring during the weekends or in July and August. Most of us are too busy then to get out there anyway. The town doesn't need to drive expensive pilings into Tashmoo or install moorings and monetize them to fix this 'problem,' they'll just be creating bigger ones.

Here's a proposal: keep the existing southern anchor yard, and by the clam flats designate a small speck of sand 100 yards away from any eelgrass both for public use from September to June. This will cost nothing and satisfy everyone.

MacAleer Schilcher
Tisbury

Excerpts and edited from a from a longer letter to select board.
-MacAleer Schilcher

- **Background on banning/moratorium on anchoring**

In 2019 the harbormaster brought a proposal to ban anchoring and install guest moorings the Waterways committee unanimously rejected it. A few months later a proposal for an Aquaculture site in the anchoring yard was unanimously approved by the selectman which would have effectively stopped anchoring. Had the selectman listened to the fisherman, the Shellfish warden and others they would have at least understood there were quahogs under the designated area(of which one quahog found would have disqualified it.) When DMF did survey they didn't even have to dive because they saw eelgrass, this could have been resolved by the applicant driving a boat over the site or asking the Shellfish warden for aquaculture site designation help, either of these seemingly did not occur. "The site inspection included a dive survey and a shellfish survey was planned. However, prior to commencing the shellfish survey, DMF divers observed patches of eelgrass." [Division of Marine Fisheries(DMF) letter to Tisbury select board regarding Tashmoo Aquaculture designation 2020] After this the Harbormaster requested \$2,000 as a 2021 warrant article for an eelgrass survey but DMF said they would do an eelgrass survey in 2021 which was released in 2022. This brings us to now.

- **The environmental argument against anchoring**

- **Trash**

If you ask Nelson Siegalman or our Shellfish warden I am out on the clam flats adjacent to the anchoring yard many days of the season. I anchor my boat in that yard to access the clam flats the town pays to seed and I eat well out of Tashmoo. I do not see trash accumulating anywhere in Rhoda pond and I throw away every plastic anything, cans anything when I do. However it's not often I find any trash. The harbormasters boat is not able to go into the clam flats so I would reach out to the shellfish employees who spend a lot of time back there as their boats have a shallower draw to get in. I strongly feel most of the very little trash that does come there is from owners/renters in the immediate vicinity which do not properly lock up their trash(i.e skunks.)

- **Urine.**

I've heard the arguments of boaters anchored peeing in the water being an environmental issue as urine is a source of nitrogen but I'd like to examine the science not conjecture. Urine on its higher end contains .053 ounces per gallon of Nitrogen. I will address fertilizer runoff from homes on the pond later in this letter, but it takes 215 gallons of urine to equal the 8lbs of pure nitrogen found in one 50 lb bag of fertilizer. We are also talking about 16 days a year that boaters congregate(weekends of

July&August.) Turf Fertilizer accounts for 5% of the total controllable load of Nitrogen according to the 2017 TDML Nitrogen loading survey.

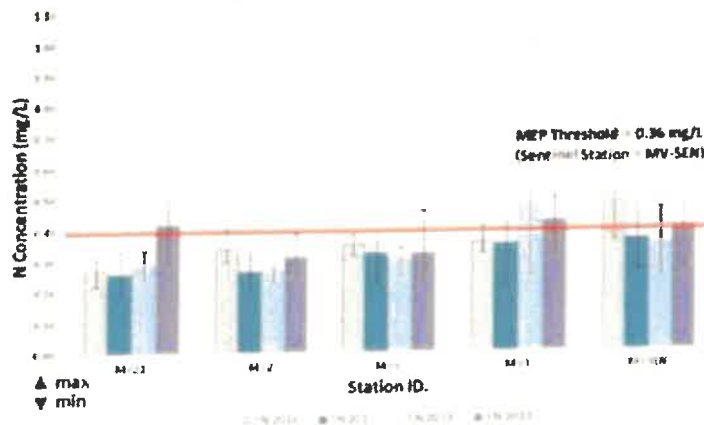
Aside anecdotal, data from the Massachusetts Environmental Protection (MEP) 2017 TDML report shows the nitrogen levels in the upper basin (the area closest to the inlet) are very low(due to the flow and shellfish) and there is no recommendation to reduce any nitrogen load in this area. I have included the chart from the 2017 TDML study below. Basically in terms of water quality the upper basin where the anchoring yard is very healthy.

TABLE 6. Present Watershed Nitrogen Loading Rates, Calculated Loading Rates that are Necessary to Achieve Target Threshold Nitrogen Concentrations, and the Percent Reductions of the Existing Loads Necessary to Achieve the Target Threshold Loadings*

Sub-embayment	Present Total Watershed Load ¹ (kg/day)	Target Threshold Watershed Load ² (kg/day)	% Watershed Load Reductions Needed to Achieve Target	
			Kg N/day	% Change
Drew Cove	4.433	4.144	0.289	-6.5%
Main Basin	19.907	12.199	7.708	-38.7%
Upper Basin	0.764	0.764	0	0
Total	25.104	17.107	7.997	-31.9%

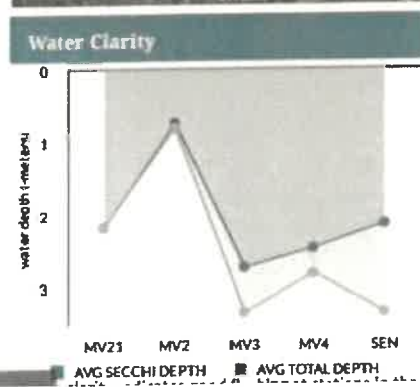
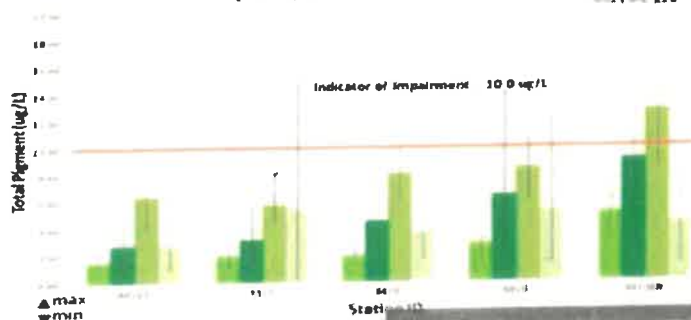
*Includes fertilizer, runoff, farm animals, landfill, atmospheric deposition to lakes and natural surfaces (not estuarine surface) and

Lake Tashmoo: Total N Gradient (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)



In past years the inlet limited flushing of the lake, but was opened in the fall of 2018. Current high levels of nitrogen may now be due to increased nitrogen input from surrounding land. Further monitoring should look to determine the sources of nitrogen input.

Lake Tashmoo: Total Pigment Gradient (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)



- "Lake Tashmoo is a classic simple estuary with a single tidal inlet, a linear basin to inland headwaters. As such it has highest quality waters near the tidal inlet with a slight decline in quality towards the head water station (i.e Sentenial Station 'TASH SEN' in Drew Cove) [MVC water quality assessment 2019]

Essentially if any environmental or water quality argument are made against anchored boaters outside of Eelgrass, they are conjecture as the data in all reports do not reflect that.

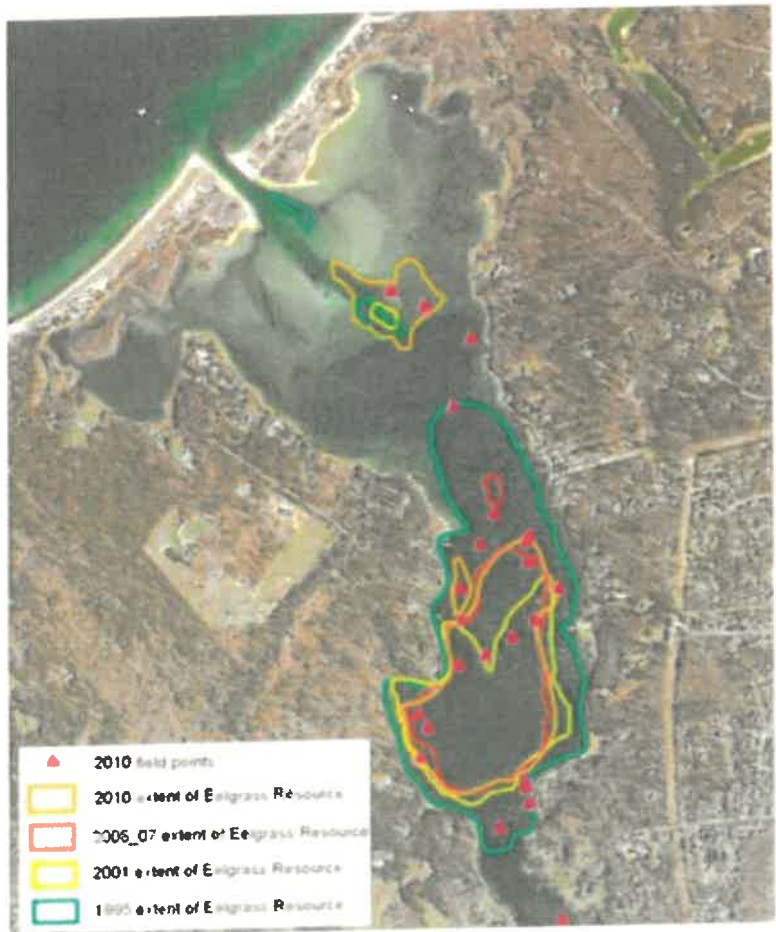
- **Eelgrass/ seagrass**

This is the best argument surely to be made will be based on the DMF 2022 Eelgrass survey. Reasons for the growth of eelgrass in the upper basin is mainly due to the scallop dragging ban enacted in 2017. If you look at the eelgrass surveys from 1995 -2017(below) you can see the upper basin has very little and this is where all the scallop dragging took place. However there is not one mention of 'anchoring' or 'anchor' in the entire 2022 survey.

2022 MAP



1995,2001,2006-7 & 2010 Eelgrass map



If this solely is an Eelgrass issue lets please move the anchoring yard away from the new Eelgrass beds, better mark the areas with buoys and update the signage. I've suggested the designations for an anchoring yard below. Yes this will shrink the anchoring yard and limit boats but it will protect the new eelgrass beds.

■ Tisbury Waterways Inc arguments against anchoring

- “Despite clear evidence that anchoring in eelgrass and careless boating can significantly harm these valuable but fragile plants, issues still persist...Historical eelgrass beds in Tashmoo have slowly disappeared, threatened by the combined threats of poor water quality, the anchoring of pleasure and commercial boats, and the use of heavy chain moorings, which scrape the seafloor and kill the eelgrass. The sensitivity of eelgrass to pollution makes it an ideal indicator species for spotting changes in water quality.” [Tisbury Waterways inc website ‘Eelgrass.’]

Lake Tashmoo is a managed resource as it's now a pond and the first Eelgrass survey was done in 1995. From that time we have experienced a loss of eelgrass but thats not a unique issue in the Cape Cod Estuaries over that time.

- “Lake Tashmoo has also experienced eelgrass loss since DEP's 1995 survey identifying 91 acres of eelgrass within the embayment.”[DMF Eelgrass survey 2022]

However, that was a statewide decline.

- “For the 12-year change analysis representing all geographic regions of the state, only three embayments exhibited increase in seagrass coverage while 30 of the original 46 embayments showed some indication of decline...On the Islands, the highest rates of loss were observed in Lagoon Pond (-13.62% y-1) and Lake Tashmoo (-14.47% y-1).”[MEP ‘Twelve-Year Mapping and Change analysis of Eelgrass Areal Abundance in Massachusetts identifies statewide decline’ 2011]

The truth is, Eelgrass in Tashmoo has stayed relatively the same and if anything grown into the reaches of the mouth as scallop dragging was banned in 2017.

- “The acreage of eelgrass identified in our survey was consistent with the delineations of the previous two DEP surveys conducted in 2013 and 2017. Our delineations are broadly comparable to the 2013 and 2017 DEP delineations, **suggesting limited change in the overall areal extent of this eelgrass meadow between 2013 and 2021.**”[DMF Eelgrass survey 2022]
- “In recent years Lake Tashmoo has experienced a dramatic increase in visiting boaters from across the Sound. To protect valuable eelgrass beds, much of the pond has been closed to anchoring, confining these day-tripper recreational boats to a **small area near the western flats inside the channel on the right.** TWI believes that this activity by recreational boaters will only increase, especially since the Edgartown

Select Board voted to close Cape Pogue (another popular destination from nearby Cape Cod) to anchoring....While anchoring in Tashmoo has been restricted, TWI believes that the Town should take further action. In 2021 the Edgartown Selectmen adopted a moratorium on anchoring in Cape Pogue Pond. [Tisbury Waterways inc website 'Eelgrass.']

I am also alarmed that in a management plan the anchoring moratorium is the first step and seems to have been laid out already as a hearing is this Wednesday. The selectman put this as a hearing on the agenda at the request of the Town Administrator but it's hard not to read into this being a part of TWI's push to ban anchoring. Lynn Frakers comments at the February 8th meeting were correct that a lot seems to be going on regarding Tashmoo behind the public's back and I'd like to make you aware of something else on the TWI website that's alarming and breaks my heart.

■ ****"Momentum is growing in Tisbury to consider creation of a District of Critical Planning Concern (DCPC) for Lake Tashmoo. The TWI Board invited Town Administrator Jay Grande, Harbormaster John Crocker, and Health Agent, Maura Valley to a meeting to discuss the need for protection of this valuable town resource. The Town has now taken steps to develop such a plan by assigning it to the Water Resources Committee. A DCPC is a form of zoning overlay district that develops regulations unique to the zone and is enacted at a town board's request at the Martha's Vineyard Commission."****

When I asked the chairman of the Water Resources Committee if this task was assigned by the town he replied not officially but it has been discussed. PLEASE do not entertain a DCPC for Tashmoo and give the MVC authority over the gem of Tisbury. The longest town pond designation of DCPC is the Lagoon in 1988 and that designation has not turned out well. Additionally, if we make these steps I highlight in this letter, Tisbury can take all the credit of being a national leader in employment of denitrification technology, promotion of eelgrass beds and increased water quality in a world where most ponds water quality are in fast decline. Tashmoo can be a model for the nation and Tisbury can and should take all the credit and responsibility. It's in our reach.

- **Space to proliferate** *The other argument to be made is that if you remove anchoring it will allow eelgrass to proliferate all along the anchoring yard. But think of Land Bank properties through a marsh, they are a managed area of intrusiveness by a wood walkway or created path. This is the same as offering a managed area of recreation (anchoring yard) in the pond.*

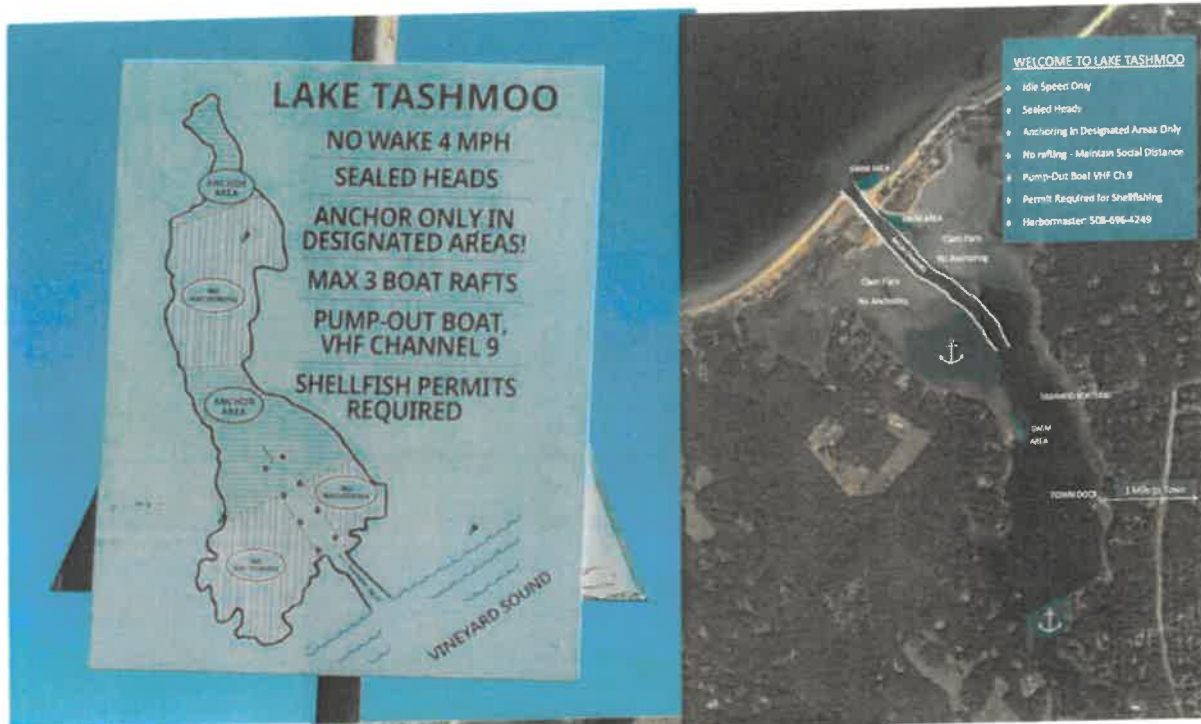
Eelgrass is an indicator of water quality and it's important habitat but it's not the end all be all of water quality and we should be focusing on improving water quality so eelgrass beds grow in Drew Cove like they used to. If the clam flats on either side of the channel were closed to shellfishing, eelgrass probably would come back. As a town we see shellfish as a managed resource, important to our culture and we should view anchoring the same way. Martha's Vineyard has a rich nautical background as you all well know.

Appendix A
Map of the Lake Tashmoo Nitrogen Management Overlay District and
the Lagoon Pond Watershed Nitrogen Management Overlay District



■ The case for anchoring

These are the current maps (below) being used to communicate the anchoring yards in Tashmoo as you come into the channel and on the website. They clearly need to be brought in line with protecting new eelgrass beds as they weren't last year. I have included a possible site for a deep water anchoring yard below which are circled in red. Again this will shrink the anchor yard significantly and thats ok. It will limit boats, protect the eelgrass and provide a place to anchor and enjoy Tashmoo, windy days, sunsets and to access the clam flat.



- **Land Bank Argument**

Without the land bank as stewards of the Vineyards long term environmental preservation and public recreation, this island would be a very different place. A similar approach in mentality by the town on recreation/anchoring needs to be approached.

The Land Bank Mission Statement reads:

*"The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank is a conservation entity charged with the task of acquiring, holding and **managing a diversity of important open space resources for the use and enjoyment of the general public.**" [Land Bank mission statement]*

- **Culture & Public recreation**

Public recreation and the creation of tashmoo as a public resource is important to consider. It's not a great pond, its a freshwater lake that was opened to the ocean. The beautiful irony is, opening that pond to the ocean in 1941 had the unintentional benefits which saved it from the development that occurred between 1941 and today. If that were still only a lake it would be very sick. It was opened up and dug out for recreation, shellfishing, commercial fisherman and safe harbor.

- "According to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study, Lake Tashmoo was landlocked in 1930. A narrow opening appeared through the barrier beach, and a wooden bulkhead was constructed, only to be destroyed in the hurricane of 1938. In 1941, the Massachusetts Department of Public Works dredged an entrance channel and constructed stone revetments and a stone jetty." [MEP/MVC Nutrient Loading to Tashmoo 2003]
- "**Lake Tashmoo is an important recreational resource:** a safe refuge for boaters and a haven for beach-goers, kayakers, and fishermen. The lake also supports important shellfish resources and diverse fish populations." [TWI website, Tashmoo]
- "The Wampanoag name, *Ashappaquonsett*, means "where the nets are spread" to dry. Nineteenth-century historian Banks suggested that "the name seems to belong to the creek which forms the outlet of Tashmoo Lake, and the definition applies perfectly to the low sandy formation of that region, where the Indians once had one of their chief fishing stations". Banks continued on to describe **the herring run at Tashmoo as historically a rich and significant resource for the people** "The fine herring run and fishery at Ashappaquonsett has been a famous and prolific domestic industry from time immemorial, and it is a common heritage of the townsmen unto this day". [MEP/MVC Nutrient Loading to Tashmoo 2003]
- "Before the 1938 hurricane (and the subsequent dredging of a wide, permanent channel into Vineyard Sound), Tashmoo was mostly fresh water and prone to freezing over mid-winter with a layer of ice more than six inches thick. A popular spot for ice-skating, Tashmoo was also home to a more unusual sport: iceboating. As the Boston Globe wrote in 1898, 'There is probably no place this side of the Hudson where there is as much interest taken in ice yachting as on the island of Martha's Vineyard'.... Today, Tashmoo is a saltwater estuary; it is very dangerous to venture

out on any ice that forms.” [MV Time 2016, Bear “This was then the then: Ice Yachts.”]



Four iceboats on Tashmoo, including Capt. Hartson Bodfish's (far left) and Dr. Orland Mayhew's (second from left), about 1930. Courtesy of Chris Baer

This town resource has been used by natives as a summer camp, favorite fishing spot and a source of recreation for those who have lived in it's vicinity since anyone was around to enjoy it. Please keep its historic heritage as a recreational resource for those who live around it in mind when making this decision.

- **Safe Harbor**

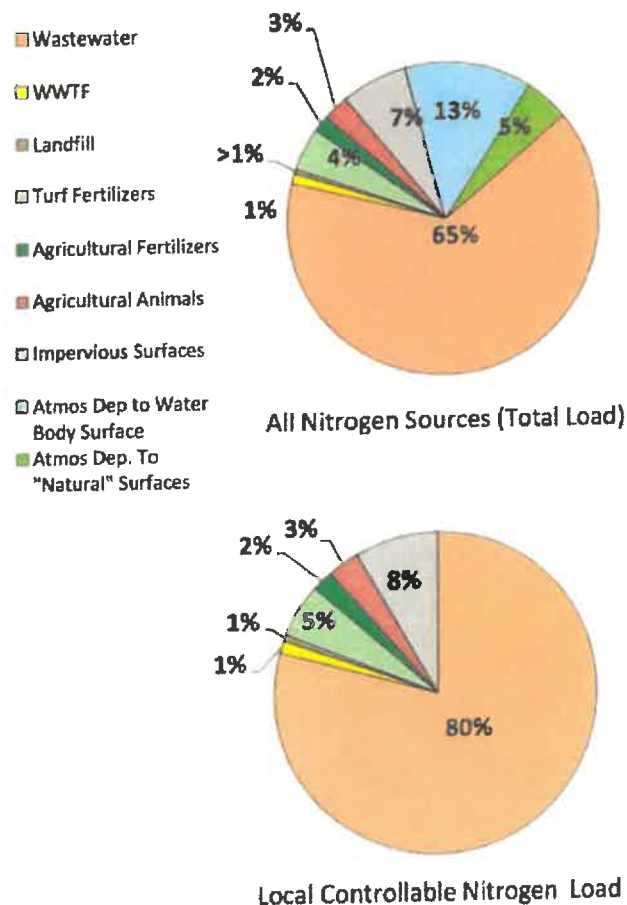
- **Limited town recreational resources**

We're not Chilmark, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Aquinnah or West Tisbury. We don't have private beaches or long stretches of beach with parking. We have Owen Park, Tashmoo beach or Wilfreds pond and these are increasingly less reliable to find parking (side note: you should explore 5 devoted resident spaces similar to Lobsterville for Tashmoo summer 2023.) We are the entrance to Martha's Vineyard and by extension we are town for the people, Tashmoo is the most beautiful and best recreational resource in this town and should be preserved as a recreational resource for the enjoyment of everyone of future generations, not just mooring holders and waterfront property owners.

Improving water quality should be the focus

- *"The solutions for each system are also basically the same: increase tidal flushing and decrease the amount of nitrogen entering the watershed." Bryan Howes, the author of the 2015 estuaries project regarding Tashmoo [MV Times 2015]*
- "It should be noted that given the only moderate nitrogen impairment seen in Lake Tashmoo, **only modest nitrogen management is needed for restoration and it is important to maintain healthy exchange of water via the tidal inlet.**"[2017 DMF Nitrogen loading survey]
- **"A lower percentage of removal (% of controllable nitrogen load from wastewater) may be successful if non-septic loads (such as fertilizer and stormwater) are reduced, or if flushing enhancements occur."**[MVC wastewater management study 2001]

Figure ES-1: Percent Contributions of Nitrogen Sources to Lake Tashmoo



■ Dredging/ Flow

One only needs to compare the water quality tests to the dredging schedule to understand there is a direct correlation between the ability of the pond to flush and water quality. For example, MVC water quality testing in 2019 show an index of 77. In 2020 we dredged in January and the MVC water quality index went up to 87 in 2020.

- "The Pond is flushed through a man-made channel to Vineyard Sound that is stabilized by stone groins (jeti.) **Approximately 3.2 days are required to exchange 95% of the water in the system with Vineyard Sound.**[2003 MVC Coastal Pond Water Quality Survey]
- *"Continue maintenance dredging; continue to consider extension of western jetty. In order to keep the inlet clear, routine maintenance dredging is needed...With the present jetty configuration, much sand enters the inlet. It has been suggested that modifications to the western jetty would keep some of the sand offshore, and help to keep the inlet functioning. [MVC Nutrient Loading to Tashmoo 2003]*
- **"Although the feasibility study recommended that the Corps of Engineers perform dredging and reconstruction and realignment of the existing jetties and further extension of the westerly jetty, the improvements were not undertaken. Shoaling inside the westerly jetty remains a maintenance problem, addressed by means of repeated maintenance dredging."** [MVC Nutrient Loading to Tashmoo 2003]

■ Impervious surface water/ Stormwater

According to the 2017 TDML 8% of the controllable nitrogen load is derived from Impervious surfaces(ie Stormwater.)[See above graph]

- *"The impacts of post-development stormwater runoff quantity and quality can adversely affect public safety, public and private property, surface water drinking water supplies, groundwater resources, drinking water supplies, recreation, aquatic habitats, fish and other aquatic life, property values and other uses of lands and waters" [Massachusetts Smart Growth LID model bylaw]*

- “High bacteria counts have been observed in Tashmoo. Stormwater remediation projects are planned for Tashmoo, which should reduce nitrogen and bacterial contamination. Although eelgrass remains in the estuary, improved flushing near the inlet allows new areas of eelgrass growth near the inlet. In the upper reaches, eelgrass remains stressed due to poor light penetration caused by turbid water. [MVC 2020 water quality report]

- **Lake Street Storm Pipe**

It's and important storm pipe but does not need to be prioritized over the West William street pipe.

- “Lake St. drainage project is still in the planning stage, UNH is designing a collection system that will help remove heavy metals and other items from the storm water before it enters into Tashmoo- my best guess for installation would be before spring of 2024” [Kirk Mattell email]

- **West William Street Storm Pipe**

- “Heavy metals pose a longer term threat but will also accumulate in aquatic plants and photoplankton. Over the longer period, metals will accumulate in species which feed on the plankton. Oil and grease also have a detrimental impact in that they cause a hydrocarbon film to coat the waters which inhibit aeration by wind and wave action. Thus, less aerobic life can be supported in a given volume of water....**Each of these contaminants were found in the discharge of the storm drain in significant concentrations to be problematic.** The shellfish beds were restricted by DMF in 1994... Approximately 1.6 miles of roadway (West Spring Street.) 26.75 feet in width, borders the southeastern end of Lake Tashmoo. The road collected rainwater was directed to road side drains. The drains connected by standpipes to catch basins which in turn were connected to the storm drain. The Spring Street storm drain discharge into the southern end of Lake Tashmoo depositing the aforementioned contaminants in the lake. As a consequence, use of the lake as a breeding ground for shell and bait fish for recreational purposes has been impaired. The lake was closed to shellfishing by the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries between August 29, 1992 and April 30, 1993 because of the high fecal coliform count”. **[TWI- Lake Tashmoo Demonstration Project in-line remediation of contaminants from road run-off 1998]**

Check my last email for video and maps, it's 40 drains, among if not the most of any discharge pipe in Tisbury and a lot of flow. It pours directly into the back of Drew Cove and that is the sick part of the whole pond. The area is closed to shellfishing and recognized target of EPA, MEP, DMF to improving overall health of the pond(i.e sentinel station.) BOH and TWI have found high levels of fecal coliform coming out of this pipe. Aside oils, micro-plastics, heavy metals and other contaminants, sediment loading from

the storm water as well as the water eating away the hill and creating its own river through the salt march contributes to that sediment loading and turbidity which ultimately affect the health of the pond especially eelgrass. This currently has no project in place, no prioritization and unless the town prioritizes this, possibly adding a warrant article to fund it in 2023 or divert the EPA funding to that pipe, it might be worked on in 2024 or 2025.

Additionally, regarding town stormwater projects; Last year there was a Bioswale installed at Owen Little Way by the Yacht Club completed by the DPW and administrated by TWI. Just this week there is a Multi-Baffled Basin(some pretty great stormwater technology) being installed at the Grove Street beach in West chop. This is being done through EPA funding at no cost to the town with UNH Stormwater center, Environmental Partners, Horsley Witten and the DPW. The projects are being administered by TWI through it's current president. This is according to the DPW director.

I'm concerned about its location because not only does that area not need to be prioritized as it doesn't serve year round residents and empties down a hill, through a beach and into the Atlantic but **mainly, because they're stormwater projects outside of the Lagoon Pond and Tashmoo watersheds (see attached watershed map. The red dots are the completed stormwater projects and orange are the discharge pipes into Tashmoo.)**



Why are we prioritizing town resources to this area? By just looking at the watershed map, knowing the 2 storm pipes empty into Tashmoo and have not being prioritized, as a resident I must ask, **who does this town serve?** Is it West Chop and waterfront home owners or the year round residents and threatened ponds? How do these stormwater projects and technology help the town of Tisbury long term if they don't address the significant nitrogen loading from stormwater in either threatened watershed? This advisory board needs to help direct the towns focus to where it matters.

■ Fertilizers

According to the TDML 5% of controllable nitrogen load is derived from turf fertilizer and 2% from Agricultural fertilizers.

-REDUCE LOAD FROM LAWN CARE

- 'Educate homeowners and professional landscapers about using native plants and about fertilizer impacts. Application of fertilizers is a practice that is difficult to regulate. Education is probably the effective tool to persuade homeowners to follow label instructions regarding application, to use fertilizers with slow-release nitrogen, or to abstain altogether. Landscaping with native plants is an attractive and low- maintenance alternative to suburban turf. Local nurseries carry native plants in stock.' [2003 DMF Nitrogen loading survey]

We need to start an aggressive public/ letter writing campaign town wide and public information drive on nitrogen fertilizers and seems like a very cheap and cost efficient way to reduce this nitrogen loading. Enforcement by BOH of the Tisbury bylaw prohibiting fertilizer use by commercial application is essential and the bylaw could possibly enhanced to include a residential ban for properties on the water. Additionally if you look at a satellite overhead google map the largest and greenest private lawns in Tisbury are on the Chappaquonsett side of the pond specifically surrounding Drew Cove (see maps below)

Additionally, a look watershed map shows a good portion of the Golf Course is in the Tashmoo. We passed a bylaw in 2018 banning the commercial use of fertilizer and I'm quite sure there was no exception for the golf course. If you look at an overhead map, the greenest, largest turf area in all of Tisbury is the Golf Course.



The sickest part of Tashmoo is where there is least flow occurs, a 1.6 mile drain storm pipe with 40 drains empties, a farm and where the largest private green lawns in Tisbury run against, Drew Cove and Sentinel Station. Tashmoo is great by the mouth, ok in the middle and sick in Drew Cove. All reports have identified Sentinel water station at the head of Drew Cove as the primary Indicator and target for overall pond health.

- "A **sentinel station** was identified in the embayment system at a location at which restoration will necessarily result in high quality habitat throughout the system and attainment of water quality standards." [EPA Letter on MEP TDML Review 2017]
- "The critical element of this TMDL process is achieving the **sentinel station** specific target threshold N concentration presented in Table 4. This is necessary for the restoration and protection of water quality, benthic invertebrate habitat, and eelgrass within the Lake Tashmoo System." [MEP TDML Report 2017]
- "The modeling predicts that if the target threshold concentration is met at the sentinel station, then eelgrass habitat restoration will be supported below the **sentinel station**. In addition, the benthic macroinvertebrate habitat will also be restored." [MEP TDML Report 2017]

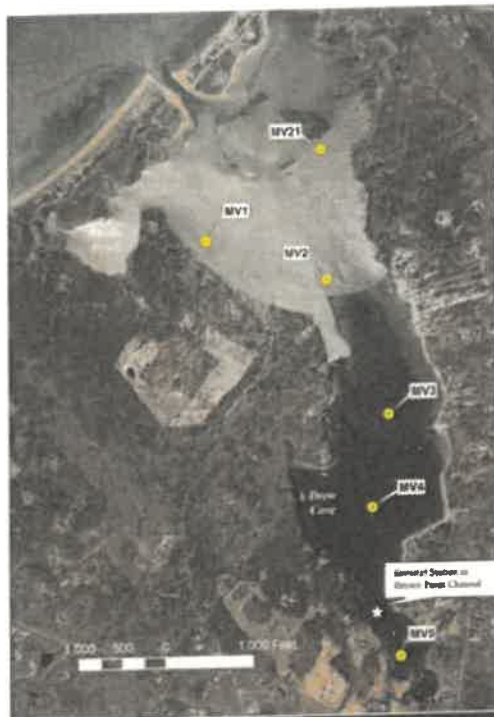
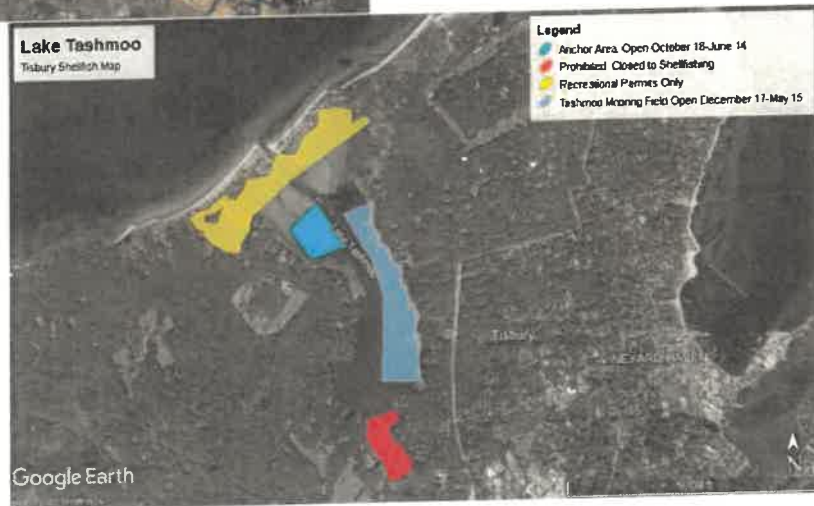
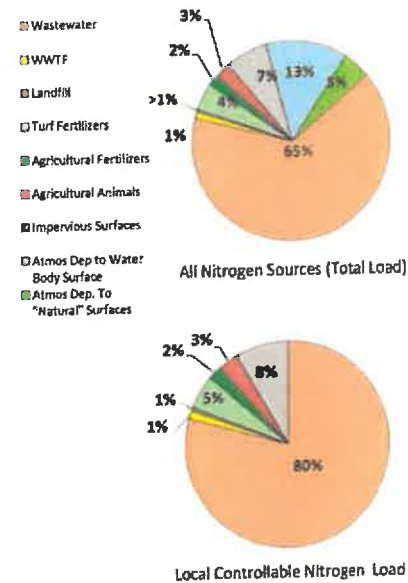


Figure ES-1: Percent Contributions of Nitrogen Sources to Lake Tashmoo



- According to the 2015 Massachusetts estuary project once action is taken the pond could recover in less than five years. Bryan Howes, who authored the study and presented it at Katherine Cornell said "The problem is that there is a lot of logistics and money and politics [involved] in doing the implementation...The delay isn't worrying about how long it takes the system. The delay is how long will it take to generate the public will and the resources to do it." [MV Times 2015]

- **“A lower percentage of removal (% of controllable nitrogen load from wastewater) may be successful if non-septic loads (such as fertilizer and stormwater) are reduced, or if flushing enhancements occur(I.E the realignment and/or Western Jetty Extension.)[MVC wastewater management study 2001]**

Combine this with a town run non-edible shellfish program(below) and the long term nitrogen mitigation systems we are set to apply for in June, we could do some very serious improvements to Tashmoo water quality health. There are American Rescue funds about to be applied for with the money we just allocated Horsley & Witten to write the proposals to improve the TDML target loading and foreshadowed at the joint meeting explaining this that much of these grants will be focused on nitrogen mitigation systems, however the ability to achieve these funds revolves around TDML and reducing nitrogen loading. These systems are important but take 10 years to hit the groundwater once they are installed. **We need to take a comprehensive approach in the use of these funds and work on these long term approaches in harmony with short term action. This advisory committee needs to help in any way to guide the town towards a comprehensive approach.**

Regarding nitrogen mitigation systems, of the 10 state of the art NITROE® nitrogen mitigation systems installed in the lagoon and Tashmoo watersheds as part of model study and grant, only 4 or 5 were installed in year round homes;

“Homes closer to the waterbody allow nitrogen to get to that waterbody faster (shorter travel times). Those further away may take longer but still get there over time and are dependent upon the underlying geology. However, what is more important is the density of homes. Larger home density means more nitrogen being discharged thus the density typically determines where to sewer to maximize reductions.” (I.E YEAR ROUND HOMES WITH HIGHEST RESIDENCE OCCUPANCY)

You are not the BOH or Water Resources committee but as a Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP,) is being rolled out, the waterways committee has to somehow be a part of that discussion as focus and implementation thus far appears to be distanced from the science.

■ Promote Shellfish and Herring

- **“As filter feeders, shellfish “clean” the water of small particulate nutrients. According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, for every pound of commercial shellfish produced, 8,000 pounds of plankton are consumed. Promote shellfish as nutrient consumers. They can exert strong top-down controls on nutrients: feeding prodigiously on algae, they use and bind up nitrogen and phosphorus that would otherwise contribute to further degradation of water quality. Promote shellfish as nutrient consumers...Herring should be promoted along with shellfish, for the same**

top- down nutrient consumption benefits. Support efforts to maintain the newly established herring run at the head of the pond.[DMF Tashmoo Nitrogen loading survey 2003]

- “the utility of bivalve aquaculture in effectively reducing phytoplankton and the nutrients available for blooms is being harnessed by some nations for economic benefit to offset nutrient over-enrichment from land - based sources.” [*Bivalve shellfish aquaculture and eutrophication. Shumway p.155*]
- “ The use of shellfish to remediate and reduce nitrogen concentrations is an alternative approach that has been utilized and is being evaluated in some areas of Long Island Sound (LIS), Wellfleet, and Chesapeake Bays. More recently, some Cape communities have been evaluating this method, including Falmouth, Mashpee and Orleans. While this approach has demonstrated promise for reducing nitrogen concentrations, there remain questions regarding the effectiveness and circumstances where it can be successfully utilized(*Tashmoo has the flow to not be problematic and oysters already grow back there, you just can't eat them.*) MassDEP recommends communities considering this option discuss such plans with the Department, and evaluate the results from ongoing efforts on the Cape and on other states.” [MEP TDML Report 2017]
- “The town of Mashpee, MA has already begun to use oysters for nutrient reduction to address TMDL N reduction requirements, targeting cultivation and harvest of 500,000 oysters to remove 50% of the 5000 kg N per year required by the TMDL. The Mashpee, MA management plan includes additional clam harvest areas for the same use. Bioextraction appears to be a promising management strategy in impacted waterbodies of all sizes – LIS is 3,259 km², the Mashpee River complex is <5 km², the Chesapeake Bay region is >11,000 m².” [EPA & NIH The role of shellfish aquaculture in reduction of eutrophication in an urban estuary 2017]
- “The value of removed nitrogen was estimated using alternative management costs (e.g. wastewater treatment) as representative, showing ecosystem service values of \$8.5 and \$470 million per year for current and maximum expanded production, respectively.[EPA & NIH The role of shellfish aquaculture in reduction of eutrophication in an urban estuary 2017]
- “Annual nitrogen removal by Greenwich clam and oyster aquaculture was 14,006 kg, which represents 9% of the total annual Greenwich-specific combined nitrogen load”[Quantification and Valuation of Nitrogen Removal Services Provided by Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture, American Chemical society 2020]

We do not need to eat the shellfish we plant in Drew Cove and shellfish seeding should be prioritized in the back of the pond hand in hand with nitrogen mitigation systems and town actions on stormwater and fertilizer. We have a town hatchery, we don't need federal funds or a study to start this process, just the will.

- **OPEN SPACE**

This is a preventative measure but as part of this targeted watershed management plan we should also be looking at open space and using State Revolving funds (SRFs) to buy Tashmoo farm which is currently on sale to address future nitrogen sources into the watershed.

- “State Revolving funds can be used for open space preservation if a specific watershed property has been identified as a critical implementation measure for meeting the TMDL. The SRF solicitation should identify the land acquisition as a high priority project for this purpose which would then make it eligible for the SRF funding list. However, it should be noted that preservation of open space will only address potential future nitrogen sources [MEP TDML Report 2017)

Letter to the Editor, MV Times February 2023

In 2018 when residents made a push to hold the Steamship accountable for over 500 mechanical breakdowns the Times published a photo of myself on the front page, arm raised addressing the board of directors with the quote, "You should be scared, all of you. I'm not threatening you." Menacing from a glance, but if journalistic integrity was honored, the Times would have included the whole quote: "You guys should be scared, all of you, especially you (as I motion to the general manager). I'm not threatening you but this is a public service and you guys need to be held accountable." In such a small social ecosystem, accuracy and full quotes are very important.

With my comments on Tashmoo cleanup in this past issue, the Times again leans more towards exaggeration than accuracy. To clarify and put my abbreviated quote in context: There are 40 drains starting at the bottom of the Tisbury School that run along West Spring Street and discharge directly into the salt marsh at the southern end of Tashmoo. I swim off the Lake Street dock and off my boat all the time, but as Tashmoo takes 3.2 days to fully empty out, I do not swim in the southern half of the pond in the days after a heavy rain, instead I anchor by the mouth to swim. This year, stormwater needs to be addressed with urgency as school demolition and construction occurs. The runoff from construction materials, including asbestos and lead, will be emptied directly into the back of Tashmoo.

Before a targeted watershed plan has been presented to the public, the 'first step' is a public hearing on an anchoring moratorium. However, surveys show the most immediate solutions toward promoting eelgrass growth, decreasing bacterial contamination, reducing nitrogen loading and increasing water quality in Tashmoo can be addressed through stormwater and fertilizer use. To target anchoring as a first step in the management plan shows that this isn't just an environmental issue but a political one as well.

The waterfront neighbors in line of sight of the anchoring zone have long complained of anchored boats and the town administrator who advocated for the public hearing said it's a 'quality of life issue.' According to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection, stormwater accounts for 8 percent of the controllable nitrogen load in Tashmoo and fertilizer runoff from homes on the pond account for 5 percent. To many it seems the town is attempting to put a butterfly stitch over a gaping wound by targeting anchoring as a first step in its management plan.

Tashmoo is the gem of Tisbury and while anchoring needs to be discussed, better marked and managed, enacting a moratorium on anchorage is essentially eliminating a town resource. As a Tisbury resident who grew up here we can't go to Lucy Vincent, Lambert's Cove or other up-island beaches in the summer, Tashmoo anchoring is a town recreational resource. With the most immediate water quality causes not being addressed first, taking away this public resource under the pretext of cleaning up Tashmoo would be disingenuous to say the least.

On March 8, I urge the select board to send this issue to the Waterways Committee to create a management plan for anchoring on all of Tisbury's waterways and to prioritize stormwater and fertilizer runoff as first steps of any management plan. Regarding anchoring, Jay Grande, the town administrator, said, "Lake Tashmoo hasn't degraded to the level Lagoon Pond has and we

talk and we talk and we talk. We've been talking my whole tenure here ... until we absolutely know we should not be risking the health of that pond any further." During that tenure, with a plethora of water testing data, surveys, reports and studies dating back to 1998, the town has not meaningfully addressed the most immediately impactful and cost effective issues threatening water quality in Tashmoo; stormwater and fertilizer runoff. I agree that we should not be risking the health of that pond any further and the town must take meaningful action towards that end based on data.

MacAleer Schilcher
Vineyard Haven



Melinda Loberg <melindaloberg@gmail.com>

to Kirk, Danielle, Maura, Gerard, Jay, Jane, me ▾

Hi Mac,

Your video is more impressive than the Waterways Inc. to work with the DPW be tested in our lab or the one in Aqueduct. We can also get tests for metals, but during the first 1/4" of run-off to give us for the next rain event and be ready to experience taking samples and working because that system had fallen off the it is something we can do something about. With regard to time next Tuesday to the holiday. However, I believe you within the town departments who are talking directly to them. That's what I'm on this email so, if they weren't aware. Thanks again,
Melinda

...

Melinda Loberg

Tisbury Board of Selectmen

508-693-9309

617-283-6545 (cell)

Sat, May 23, 2020, 4:44 PM



from **Melinda Loberg**
<melindaloberg@gmail.com>

to **Mac Schilcher**
<mac.schilcher@gmail.com>,
Kirk Metell <kmetell@tisburyma.gov>,
Danielle Ewart <dewart@tisburyma.gov>,
Maura Valley <mvalley@tisburyma.gov>,
Gerard & Jacquie Hokanson
<gchokanson@gmail.com>,
"Grande, Jay" <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>,
Jane Varkonda
<jvarkonda@tisburyma.gov>

date: May 23, 2020, 4:44 PM

subject: **Re: Tashmoo storm water**

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signed by: gmail.com

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.The critical element of this TMDL process is achieving the **sentinel station** specific target threshold Nitrogen concentration. This is necessary for the restoration and protection of water quality, benthic invertebrate habitat, and eelgrass within the Lake Tashmoo System.

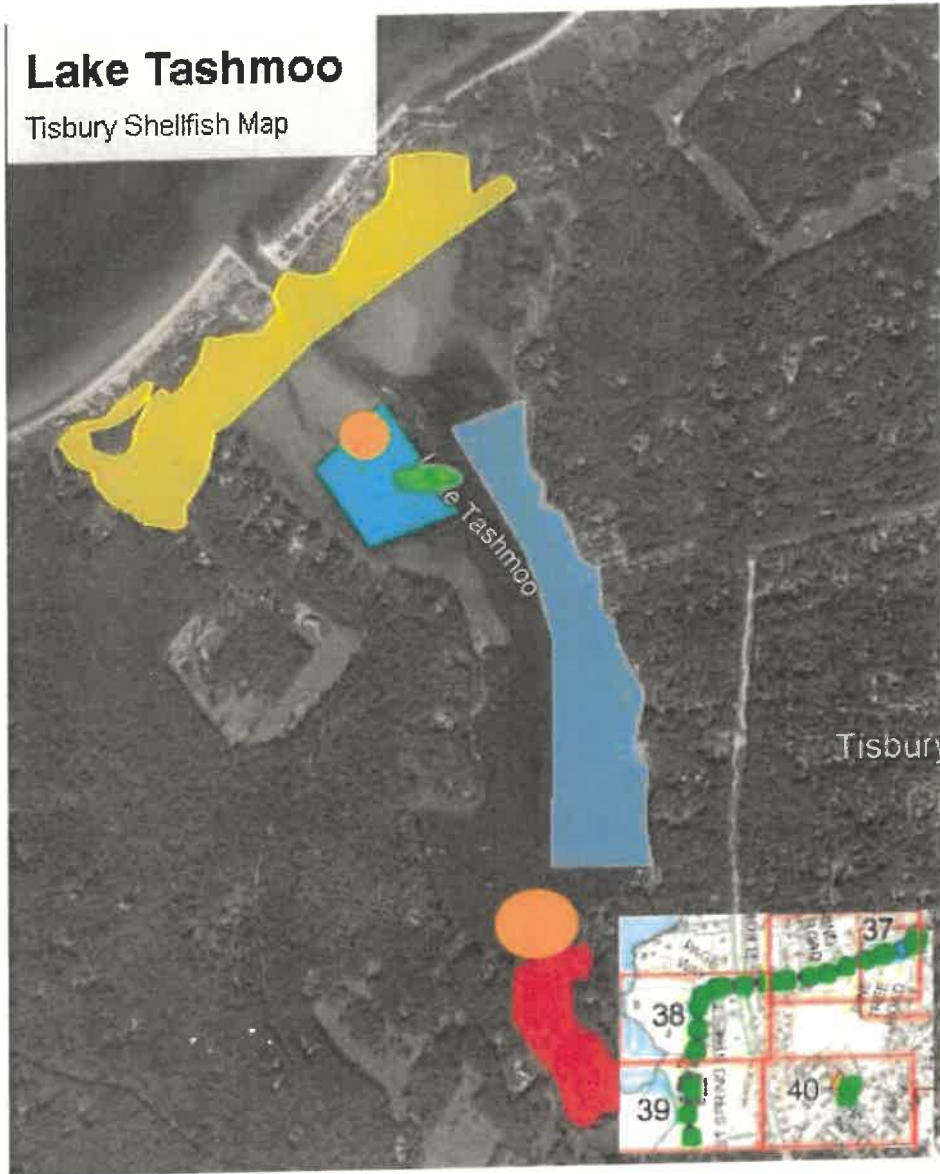
Eelgrass decline in general has been directly related to the impacts of eutrophication caused by elevated nitrogen concentrations. **Therefore, if the nitrogen concentration is elevated enough to cause symptoms of eutrophication to occur, eelgrass growth will not be possible even if all other factors are controlled and the eelgrass will not return until the water quality conditions improve.**





Lake Tashmoo

Tisbury Shellfish Map





Sat, May 23, 2020, 4:44 PM



Melinda Loberg <melindaloberg@gmail.com>
to Kirk, Danielle, Maura, Gerard, Jay, Jane, me ▾

Hi Mac,
Your video is more impressive than the Waterways Inc. to work with the DPW be tested in our lab or the one in Aquil We can also get tests for metals, but during the first 1/4" of run-off to give u for the next rain event and be ready to experience taking samples and working because that system had fallen off the it is something we can do something 2 With regard to time next Tuesday to the holiday. However, I believe you within the town departments who are talking directly to them. That's what I on this email so, if they weren't aware Thanks again,
Melinda

...

Melinda Loberg
Tisbury Board of Selectmen
508-693-9300
617-283-6545 (cell)

from **Melinda Loberg**
<melindaloberg@gmail.com>

Mac Schilcher
<mac.schilcher@gmail.com>,
Kirk Metell <kmetell@tisburyma.gov>,
Danielle Ewart <dewart@tisburyma.gov>,
Maura Valley <mvalley@tisburyma.gov>,
Gerard & Jacquie Hokanson
<gchokanson@gmail.com>,
"Grande, Jay" <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>,
Jane Varkonda
<jvarkonda@tisburyma.gov>

date May 23, 2020, 4:44 PM

subject Re: Tashmoo storm water

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signed by gmail.com

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Melinda Loberg <melindaloberg@gmail.com>

to Kirk, Danielle, Maura, Gerard, Jay, Jane, me ▾

May 23, 2020, 4:44 PM



Hi Mac,

Your video is more impressive than the one I took this morning. That's a lot of volume. I have asked Tisbury Waterways Inc. to work with the DPW, Con Com and Board of Health to get some water samples from there to be tested in our lab or the one in Aquinnah for fecal coliform/total coliform which is one of the biggest concerns. We can also get tests for metals, but they usually have to be sent off-island. The samples need to be taken during the first ¼" of run-off to give us the clearest indication of the level of pollution. So we will need to wait for the next rain event and be ready to go. Tisbury Waterways Inc. is focussed on stormwater and has years of experience taking samples and working on solutions in partnership with the town. I'm glad you raised the issue because that system had fallen off the town's and TWI's radar except for the regular cleaning of catchbasins and

it is something we can do something about.

With regard to time next Tuesday to talk further about the issue, the agenda had to be posted on Thursday due to the holiday. However, I believe your introduction of the topic at our last meeting prompted a lot of response within the town departments who are responsible and further follow-up discussion would be most effective in talking directly to them. That's what I'm doing. Kirk, Maura, Jane, Danielle and Gerry Hokanson are all copied on this email so, if they weren't aware, they are now.

Thanks again,

Melinda

...

Melinda Loberg

Tisbury Board of Selectmen

508 693 9309

617 283 6545 (cell)

Alley's, OSV permits, a Tashmoo anchoring moratorium, housing crisis; it's all the same feeling. We're rapidly losing the culture which helped attract the near doubling of MV's population in the last 25 years. We've always coexisted but the pendulum has swung too far and Vineyard culture has become critically endangered.

'Martha Goes To Beacon Hill' next Thursday and a Housing Bank is critical for cultural preservation equally as much as the Land Bank is for natural preservation. Without the land bank this island would be a very different place. 'Neither a sanctuary program nor a park system, it is a middle ground where the highest virtues of conservation can be realized: public enjoyment of nature, where limits and restraint secure the natural world's future and prosperity.'

The public enjoyment of nature responsibly and it's preservation for future generations enjoyment is the exact reason why everyone loves MV so much, it's just so unique in the world today. The balance of local and seasonal has always been respected and it's conjecture, but there seems to be a correlation between public access issues and the increase in waterfront mega mansions and Cyanobacteria.

The issue with anchoring in Tashmoo is not Eelgrass, it's management. With significantly restricted anchoring zones and a scallop dragging ban enacted in 2017, eelgrass beds have stayed relatively the same since 2013 according to the 2022 DMF eelgrass survey. Even though the MVC tests show Tashmoo among the of the highest water quality indexes of Vineyard ponds, water quality is the issue with eelgrass and stormwater and fertilizer are things the town hasn't meaningfully addressed in the 6 years since the TMDL release.

The anchoring 'problem' is that on weekends for two months a year, people in boats go and enjoy the area by the mouth of Tashmoo, this is one of the two restricted anchoring zones. A picture of this 'problem' was shown on a 5 foot screen during the discussion and drew a slight gasp from the room when first presented; an overhead drone shot of 70 plus boats to the right of the channel of which a dozen boats are on moorings and 20 of are illegally anchored in front of the red nun by/on the clam flats. Two boats are anchored in the channel. That's the most I've ever seen out there. I don't like that picture anymore than anyone else. Who's handling those navigational hazards in the channel? If it's only a few hours on weekends in summer then how were that many boats illegally anchored? Why are those lawns on the water so big and green when the brown drought patch atop the screen is so pronounced? How much nitrogen is leaching off those lawns?

The drone picture taken from August 2020 was the smoking gun. After being told to stay inside for months, the safest thing anyone could be doing during that period of history was following the direction to socially distance, that was the hottest stretch of the year and we all remember how strange that summer was. That picture looks like people were enjoying one of the most special places in the world socially distanced. It's no wonder it was so crowded and many illegally anchored boaters probably weren't even aware of their infractions. I question the intent of taking that picture in the context of what was going on then in the world. Perspective is important but if so bothered, call the harbormaster. There's lots of glaring enforcement issues in that picture. I come to find out that was taken by the assistant harbormaster at the time, was he on paid town time flying that drone? Who was mastering the harbor when that picture was taken? It's no wonder so many day boaters got so comfortable over the years, anchoring is a management issue exemplified in that picture. We apparently don't have the bandwidth to

master our harbors so an anchoring moratorium then somehow figuring out expensive pilings are thought to be the easiest solution to fix the weather dependent, weekend summer 'problem.'

It seems there is no plan past pilings by design. No costs, proposed locations of each, permitting plan or even clear understanding if permits would be needed. The waterways committee is presenting it's recommendation for the first time during the hearing. Instead of driving pilings into Tashmoo or installing moorings which may take years to figure out, Tisbury needs to find a 'middle ground where the highest virtues of conservation can be realized.' Manage the harbor, limit and permit anchoring though the town website or just ban anchoring July & August so homeowners don't have to look at boaters. Let us have a little speck of sand that only fits 10 boats well away from any eelgrass to anchor and access the clam flats, cleanest water in Tashmoo and world class sunsets from September- June. That's the least complicated and cheapest middle ground which balances public enjoyment with the long term goals of preservation.

Re: Tashmoo Anchoring Moratorium**Michael Hoff** <mrhoff@mac.com>

Sat 3/18/2023 2:23 PM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>

Cc: Lynne <captlynn@yahoo.com>

 1 attachments (30 KB)

Anchoring Permit Plan.docx;

Dear Sir/Madam,

I've been privileged to have a mooring in Tashmoo since 1985 and although I'm late to the conversation about the proposed anchoring moratorium, I'd like to put my two cents in. I'm opposed to an anchoring moratorium and favor limiting the number of boats that are permitted to use the anchorage. I'd like to suggest a model for doing so.

The Red Sox and certain ski areas which limit daily ticket sales now sell e-tickets online. Following this model, the town could add a "Tashmoo Anchor Permits" page to the Harbormaster's website, <https://www.tisburyma.gov/harbormaster>. Boaters desiring to purchase a "Tashmoo Anchor Permits" for a particular day would have to visit the site and register. Registered users would be provided with a downloadable chart of the anchorage, and have to agree to the terms and conditions of use of the anchorage, (including penalties for violation and limitations on liability of the town). The user would then be presented with a calendar indicating available dates and the fee for a daily Permit. The purchaser would choose the desired date, pay the fee electronically, and be issued with a Tashmoo Anchor Permit indicating the date of use and a receipt. The software would provide the town of with an accounting of the number of permits sold for each date and the fees collected. There would be no need to install a guest mooring field in the anchorage or service the moorings.

The number of permits should be limited based on the Harbormaster's ability to verify e-tickets and manage the anchorage. I am not familiar with Dockwa or Online Mooring but existing software or services may be available to provide these functions.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Hoff
20 Kenilworth Street
Newton, MA 02458
617.519.5795

On Mar 18, 2023, at 8:50 AM, Lynne <captlynn@yahoo.com> wrote:

Yes, would you please pass that on to the selectBoard
Jgrande@tisburyma.gov
rcutrer@tisburyma.gov
Jcahill@tisburyma.gov

aburt@tisburyma.gov
edefoe@tisburyma.gov

I finally got the comments yesterday and my proposal and research was not included. I did get an email from Gramde saying he wants a moratorium. I have attached my proposal and plan an email to all. So frustrating.

Lynne Fraker
508-627-0848
sail@sailena.com

On Sat, Mar 18, 2023 at 8:42 AM, Michael Hoff
<mrhoff@mac.com> wrote:

Pilings seems like a crazy idea. Not sure what that would look like or how it would work. 1 boat per piling? Guest mooring would look better but not good.

A limited number of day permits make much more sense. Some ski areas limit the number of day passes and sell them online via their websites. The Red Sox now sell tickets online with no paper tickets - the tickets are downloaded to your phone.

The town could set up a website that sells 25 passes per day or whatever limited number makes sense. The passes would be downloaded to the buyer's phone. Use of the tickets would be limited to the anchorage area described on the website, with a chart and terms of use (no excessive noise, speed etc.) downloaded with the ticket. Payment to the town would be made by credit card, enabling cashless transactions and a strict accounting of the number of passes sold and revenue collected. The harbormaster could manage day use by patrol boat validating passes in the same way many places collect mooring fees and evicting those with no passes. The cost of setting up and maintaining the website (could be a page on the existing Town/Harbormaster website) would be far less than the cost of installing and maintaining unsightly pilings or guest moorings.

Michael R. Hoff
20 Kenilworth Street
Newton, MA 02458
617-519-5795

On Mar 17, 2023, at 5:52 PM, Lynne <captlynne@yahoo.com> wrote:

Just to let you know the Harbormaster has proposed to place pilings in Tashmoo for day anchoring. My proposal was for reduced area and day permits to control numbers for anchored boats.

Lynne Fraker
508-627-0848
sail@sailena.com

On Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 3:56 PM, Michael Hoff
<mrhoff@mac.com> wrote:

Lynn,

I hate to disagree with you but the situation in the anchorage during the summer, particularly on weekends brings noise (a hundred or more people partying in a small space), pollution (lots of piss in the lake, noise and exhaust from overpowered boats, environmental damage (boats anchored in the flats) and danger (swimmers in the channel, boats anchored in the channel, excessive speed - particularly exiting the channel). Management is not the solution - the Harbormaster has not proven capable of dealing with the problems created by the circus in the anchorage, particularly on weekends.

I don't favor an absolute moratorium. In my opinion, the use of the anchorage should be limited to the extent that the Harbormaster can demonstrate that he is able to effectively manage it.

Michael Hoff
617-519-5795

On Mar 17, 2023, at 12:39 PM, Lynne
<captlynn@yahoo.com> wrote:

There is no reason for an anchoring moratorium in Tashmoo. What is needed is management and very specific, enforceable regulations. At the June Waterways meeting, the stakeholders were looking for a management plan that would reduce the number of boats, not a moratorium. The anchorage area was originally chosen because there was very little eelgrass there. ***It is in the same condition as it was in 2016.*** It is possible to have a managed anchorage. It is not always so crowded and it is weather dependent. Public access should be a priority.

Nelson Seigelman wrote a letter that clearly explains the situation within the anchorage. Nelson has been the main manager of that area with little guidance and no power of enforcement. The Harbormaster is only there occasionally and has not given Nelson any credit for his hard work. The photo recently presented to you does not reflect the work Nelson did to place buoys along the edge of the clam flats and the buoys placed along the south end of the anchorage to protect fragile areas.

Give Nelson the ability to enforce. He can do it nicely and forcefully if necessary.

Several proposals have been presented to you. It will require a permit process which can be handled online by the system currently used by the Natural Resource Dept. As the amount of visitors to our beautiful Island increases it is necessary to control access. Land Bank does it with limited parking. We can do it by limiting the number of boats.

There will need to be very specific, enforceable regulations. There are no existing regulations for this area. For example, if a boat extends past the designated area, it must leave. Noise regulations. Brochures with rules, regs, etc should be implemented again. Readable signage.

The broken pumpout boat is a problem. Can it be patched enough to stay tied permanently in the slip so boats that need a PO can come to the dock? The Harbormaster has already stated that the PO does not get a lot of use. The boats in the anchorage near the opening do not use the PO, but others at moorings and SE anchorage need the PO boat occasionally.

The management of the anchored boats has been a problem for years and has gotten worse. The Natural Resource has not managed any part of Tashmoo. No management of moorings, issues on the Lake Street Dock, or the dinghy dock. No fair enforcement of existing regulations including pumpout regulations. No plan to control anchoring except to call it chaos and eliminate it.

Eelgrass will not grow anywhere in Tashmoo until the water quality at the end of the pond is improved. Although TWI believes they have the magic bullet to work on septic systems, and this should be pursued, it will take years to be effective. TWI and the Board of Health have done nothing to fix the issues that would have made a big difference. Runoff from pipes directly into Tashmoo and enforcement of existing fertilizer regulations have had no priority. Zoning regulations have no priority and the building of large homes and the destruction of native plants along the banks are part of the problem. The desire of some to not see anchored boats has been a problem. Their answer is to eliminate anchored boats which are not the problem.

3/20/23, 8:38 AM

Mail - Elena DeFoe - Outlook

Lynne Fraker
PO Box 4124 Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 508-627-0848
www.sailena.com

Michael R. Hoff
20 Kenilworth Street
Newton, MA 02458
617.519.5795

Tashmoo Anchoring Moratorium

Lynne <captlynne@yahoo.com>

Fri 3/17/2023 12:40 PM

To: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Abbe Burt <aburt@tisburyma.gov>

Cc: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; John Crocker <jcrocker@tisburyma.gov>; Jeffrey Canha <reelucky@gmail.com>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; Matt Hobart <clearscintillation@gmail.com>; Michael Baptiste <tashmooboatyrd@yahoo.com>; Roger Moffat <roger.moffat@gmail.com>; greg-martino@hotmail.com <greg-martino@hotmail.com>; Pam Bennett <pbennett@tisburyma.gov>

There is no reason for an anchoring moratorium in Tashmoo. What is needed is management and very specific, enforceable regulations. At the June Waterways meeting, the stakeholders were looking for a management plan that would reduce the number of boats, not a moratorium. The anchorage area was originally chosen because there was very little eelgrass there. **It is in the same condition as it was in 2016.** It is possible to have a managed anchorage. It is not always so crowded and it is weather dependent. Public access should be a priority.

Nelson Seigelman wrote a letter that clearly explains the situation within the anchorage. Nelson has been the main manager of that area with little guidance and no power of enforcement. The Harbormaster is only there occasionally and has not given Nelson any credit for his hard work. The photo recently presented to you does not reflect the work Nelson did to place buoys along the edge of the clam flats and the buoys placed along the south end of the anchorage to protect fragile areas. Give Nelson the ability to enforce. He can do it nicely and forcefully if necessary.

Several proposals have been presented to you. It will require a permit process which can be handled online by the system currently used by the Natural Resource Dept. As the amount of visitors to our beautiful Island increases it is necessary to control access. Land Bank does it with limited parking. We can do it by limiting the number of boats.

There will need to be very specific, enforceable regulations. There are no existing regulations for this area. For example, if a boat extends past the designated area, it must leave. Noise regulations. Brochures with rules, regs, etc should be implemented again. Readable signage.

The broken pumpout boat is a problem. Can it be patched enough to stay tied permanently in the slip so boats that need a PO can come to the dock? The Harbormaster has already stated that the PO does not get a lot of use. The boats in the anchorage near the opening do not use the PO, but others at moorings and SE anchorage need the PO boat occasionally.

The management of the anchored boats has been a problem for years and has gotten worse. The Natural Resource has not managed any part of Tashmoo. No management of moorings, issues on the Lake Street Dock, or the dinghy dock. No fair enforcement of existing regulations including pumpout regulations. No plan to control anchoring except to call it chaos and eliminate it.

Eelgrass will not grow anywhere in Tashmoo until the water quality at the end of the pond is improved. Although TWI believes they have the magic bullet to work on septic systems, and this should be pursued, it will take years to be effective. TWI and the Board of Health have done nothing to fix the issues that would have made a big difference. Runoff from pipes directly into Tashmoo and enforcement of existing fertilizer regulations have had no priority. Zoning regulations have no priority and the building of large homes and the destruction of native plants

3/17/23, 12:43 PM

Mail - Elena DeFoe - Outlook

along the banks are part of the problem. The desire of some to not see anchored boats has been a problem. Their answer is to eliminate anchored boats which are not the problem.

Lynne Fraker

PO Box 4124 Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 508-627-0848

www.sailena.com

Anchoring Permit Plan submitted by Lynne Fraker 2.13.23

Federal Anchoring laws: The following is paraphrased from <https://www.florida-guidebook.com/florida-anchoring-laws/>

Historically, Admiralty law has recognized anchoring as an integral part of navigation. This recognition is deliberate and important. Safety on the high seas is inextricably linked to the ability to wait for safe marine weather forecasts.

The safety and well-being of sailors often depends on precise voyage timing, and may not fit into strict anchoring restrictions.

Hurricanes, tropical depressions, gales, and other emergencies could all extend a sailor's time in a particular anchorage.

Similar concerns have been raised among cruisers as well. Sailors know it's common to be stuck while waiting for parts, or for a good weather window before a voyage.

Although the Federal Government has consistently shown that it will leave local anchoring regulation to local entities, states are not given carte blanche. The power of the states to regulate anchoring arises partly from the Submerged Lands Act (SLA), in which the Federal Government bestowed ownership of submerged lands to the states (Ankerson et al., 2011). As a condition of this title, states are required to act as trustees and to maintain the submerged lands "for the benefit of the public" (Ankeson et al., 2011). Part of this trustee relationship stipulates that states must preserve the right of navigation for citizens (Ankeson et al., 2011). Since anchoring has consistently been deemed a "right incidental to navigation" (Ankerson et al., 2011), states cannot unreasonably limit anchoring.

Tashmoo's environment is a fragile natural resource. No doubt, it needs protection. This protection does not have to come at the expense of responsible boaters. To serve everyone involved, and to sustainably preserve Tisbury Waterways, the Town of Tisbury should exert consistent authority over anchoring rights. The Town should explore competent solutions to properly manage anchorages, and embrace cruisers and marine tourism...

Tisbury Waterways Advisory Committee, June 6, 2022

On June 6, 2020, the Waterways Committee meeting discussed the day anchorage in Tashmoo. This discussion involved many property owners and interested folks. The discussion centered around how to manage and limit day anchoring. There were many reasonable concerns about noise, overcrowding, and safety and good management suggestions. The vote was for the Waterways Committee to manage the anchorage thru Regulations. The minutes will show that only one person talked about a moratorium. The discussion was around management, and limiting anchoring, but not banning anchoring. A summary of this discussion is in the minutes included on page 3 of this document. The full discussion can be seen in the video. <https://mvtv.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=6814799d-7c79-44b4-9fdd-7ee6527fcf33>

Note: Comments for the Waterways Public Hearing asked for *reducing* number of day anchors.

Anchoring Permits in other Massachusetts Harbors:

Research into Waterways regulations for many Massachusetts harbors finds that many but not all harbors do require a permit or permission from the Harbormaster to anchor. Some require immediate permission to anchor and some require anchoring permission after some time.

Further researching the possibility of requiring permits for a limited day anchorage, Steve McKenna (Coastal Zone Management) was contacted. He responded ... "I'm pretty certain that the management of this area for day anchoring is well within a Harbormaster's authority. It is certainly done in other areas. The harbormaster could do this on the grounds of safety, but it could also be for environmental impacts as well."

How might this day anchorage be managed?

Online permitting for day anchoring may be the best option, to take any pressure off the Natural Resource Dept. There are two options, each would pay for itself, Dockwa and OnlineMooring. The Natural Resource Dept currently uses OnlineMooring. Matt Calouro, from OnlineMooring, responded... "Yes, we can certainly help administer the anchorage areas. (Reservations, Charting, online payments, amenities, etc.) We are currently working with a number of government agencies doing just that. "

What do you want to manage or limit?

1. Daily permits?
2. Number of boats?
3. Size of boats?
4. Limit number of permits per vessel (ex. Vessel Limit to 3 permits per 30 days).?
5. No charter or cruise boats (over 6 passengers)?
6. Allow rafting to 3 vessels with each vessel requiring a permit?
7. Cost of permit should not be prohibitive for small boats, but would provide some limited income for the Town. It should be important to allow small boats and small families
8. Brochures and literature for communication, education, expectations?
9. Will local boats need a permit? Should there be a residential option?

Management of boats anchoring without a permit

Federal Admiralty laws allow anchoring in cases of safety, storms, hurricanes, and breakdowns. Many vessels have traditionally chosen Tashmoo as a harbor of refuge. They have always been welcome. Efforts have always been made to find these vessels temporary short-term vacant moorings when possible. They have a right to anchor short term.

Minutes Of The Tisbury Waterways Committee 6.9.22

TISBURY WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 5:30pm

In Attendance: Jeff Canha, Greg Martino, Michael Baptiste, John Packer, Paul Munafo

Also Present: John Crocker, Danielle Ewart, Kim Elias, Colleen Wilson, Noah Mayrand, Bob Carnie, Jan Homans, Rick Homans, Bob Landreth, Doug Reece, Melinda Loberg, Lynne Fraker, George Hughes, Alicia Hughes, Ben Scott, Melinda Loberg, Jorja Darby, Peter Guest, Theresa Morrison, Anna Fay Lawton and Kim Baptiste.

1) Call to Order: Paul Munafo took the chair.

2) Public Comment: None.

3) Minutes: Paul Munafo made a motion and Michael Baptiste seconded to accept the May 12, 2022, minutes. **(Voted 3-2 abstain)**

4) Colleen Wilson Intro: Colleen Wilson introduced herself to the Waterways Committee. Colleen joined the Natural Resource Office in April as a full-time employee.

5) Limited Anchoring in Lake Tashmoo: Greg Martino explained that there is small committee from the MV Commission who are looking into making Lake Tashmoo an area of

DCPC (District of Critical Planning Concern). He had asked for it to be on the agenda so that the Town might take the opportunity of incorporating the anchorage area as part of its Waterways Regulations rather than through the MV Commission DCPC. John Packer said he would prefer the Town of Tisbury deal with the issue of limiting anchoring rather than an all-island body. Jeff Canha explained the process in which DCPC regulations would be drafted and brought to Town Meeting. Melinda Loberg explained the process in that the Town can make a referral that they would like to see a DCPC to the MV Commission at which point a moratorium would be in place until such time the Town puts regulations in place, but does not necessarily need to go the MV Commission if regulations are drafted and adopted by the Town in which case the moratorium is shorter. Several members of the public, including Ben Scott, Paul Wagner, Jan Homans who supported limited anchorage and Theresa Morrison, who also encouraged the Committee to start with the Town, Peter Guest, who also expressed the health of the eco-system, Bob Landreth and Noah Mayrand expressed support for limiting anchorage in Lake Tashmoo as well as several comments received via email before the meeting were acknowledged and Lynn Fraker advocated for a Lake Tashmoo Management Plan. John Crocker stated that the subject of anchoring in Tashmoo was discussed some time ago and that he had suggested limiting the anchorage area by installing a few moorings (6) and taking day reservations for their use. He went on to explain DMF conducted a survey due to an aquaculture site application in area which showed eel grass they went on to do an eel grass study using side scan sonar and found eel grass in the area. During the summer he has counted to 95 boats anchoring in the area and as such suggested limiting the boater by installing up to six mooring to alleviate the problem. John Packer asked the question if the system is going to work with respect to reservation for all boat users and how it would be enforced. Greg Martino also suggested following up with Dan Doyle at the MV Commission. The discussion will be continued.

6) Draft ACOE Permit for Rental Moorings in conjunction with NMF (National Marine Fisheries) Grant Opportunity for Conservation Moorings in Lake Tashmoo: John Crocker explained as a result of an issue regarding the ability for the Town to rent private moorings according to current regs and in an effort to rectify the issue the ACOE, draft applications have been reviewed and run by other state entities with ACOE and in conversations there may be a possibility through NMF a grant opportunity for 20 existing private mooring holders to replace their existing mooring to environmental mooring at no cost. He would also like to ask NMF if they would be willing to install possible additional six moorings in the anchorage. (in a sensitive aquatic site). After discussion regarding installing and inspection. John Packer mentioned talking to the Edgartown Harbormaster regarding how Edgartown install environmental moorings. John Crocker said he would do so. Lynn Fraker felt the conservation moorings and ACOE should be a separate conservation. She shared a review of a 2019 report from DMF, the report is available online at the DMF web site. Lynne asked what if any was the response from DEP with respect to leasing private moorings. John Crocker explained that they indicated that there was no problem. Jeff Canha requested to see their response in writing before taking any action. Discussion will be continued.

7) Recommended Changes to the Waterways Regulations: Jeff Canha stepped down as Chair. Paul Munafo stepped in to run the meeting. Jeff Canha received an email from the Town Administrator, the Select board were ready to receive the current version of the regulations. After discussion Greg Martino made a motion and Paul Munfoe seconded to:

**Recommended to the changes in the most recently updated draft version of the Waterways Regulations be submitted for consideration and review by the Select Board and Town Counsel.
(Voted 5-0)**

8) John Packer made a motion Greg Martino seconded to recess for July and August unless there is a need to reconvene in case of emergency. (Voted 5-0)

Paul Munafo made a motion and Greg Martino seconded to adjourn (Voted 5-0)



March 21, 2023

Dear Select Board,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Sandy Cannon-Brown
Carole Cronig Abrahams
Gerard Hokanson
Rick Homans
Bob Landreth
Ann Fay Lawton
Jean Lewellyn
Gus Lewis
Ray Lincoln
Beverly Pottsaid
Lorraine Wells
Melinda Loberg, *President*

We want to thank you for initiating a series of productive and thoughtful discussions regarding a proposed anchoring moratorium in Lake Tashmoo. We heard many opinions expressed at the March 8th Select Board and March 9th Waterways Committee meetings about anchoring, Lake Tashmoo's water quality, and how to balance the many uses, sometimes conflicting, of our waterways. The Waterways Committee has now recommended a course of action for you to consider at your March 22 Select Board meeting.

Before we offer our proposal regarding anchoring in Lake Tashmoo, we want to weigh in on the Waterways Committee recommendation which we think is flawed and we hope will not be adopted by the Select Board. We have two major problems.

First, by closing the northwest part of the pond to anchoring and leaving the southerly anchorage (see current Harbormaster map) available, we believe that dozens of visiting boats will simply move to the southerly anchorage. This area of the pond is relatively small and narrow and not equipped to handle dozens of weekend recreational boats. There will be a multitude of safety issues, including congestion in the channel running the length of Lake Tashmoo to the one anchoring spot, and for boats departing from the southern end of the pond and passing through this anchoring zone where there will likely be swimmers in the water. There are approximately two dozen sailboats and powerboats moored and/or docked at the head of the lake which will experience challenges transiting north as they pass through this busy anchoring area.

Second, we believe the use of pilings for "guest tie-ups" may pose safety risks for evening/nighttime boaters. In addition, pilings are used most often in marinas and more commercialized sections of waterways and harbors. Developing a more commercial "feel" to Lake Tashmoo most likely conflicts with the long-term objectives of improving Lake Tashmoo's water quality.

We have stated, in earlier communication, the reasons we believe that the Select Board should impose at least a two-year moratorium on anchoring in Lake Tashmoo. Our focus has been, and remains exclusively, on the need to protect eelgrass, which plays such a critical role in the ecosystem of our waterways.

Our recommendation is as follows:

- We encourage you to put in place a two-year moratorium on anchoring in Lake Tashmoo.

- To accommodate weekend boaters, we support an option of developing and implementing a guest mooring program which would be in the **non-eelgrass area of the northerly anchorage**, most likely adjacent to the clam flats.
- These guest moorings, limited to six, should be highly **visible conservation moorings** (available for single boat use only), which provide maximum protection to the bottom of the pond.

If the Select Board moves forward with a moratorium on anchoring in Lake Tashmoo, we believe the Town of Tisbury should support a program to actively monitor the growth of eelgrass in the pond, and to encourage eelgrass restoration projects in Lake Tashmoo. Tisbury Waterways Inc. (TWI) stands ready to partner with the Town of Tisbury and other groups to seek resources to support eelgrass monitoring and restoration and to secure additional private and non-profit funds to help pay for the new moorings. We also publish annually our boater's brochure (on hold until a decision is made about anchoring in Lake Tashmoo) and we believe the wide distribution of this brochure, including on the town website, will help disseminate information to the boating community about any change in the status of anchoring in Lake Tashmoo.

Finally, we recognize that other factors contribute to the degradation of the eelgrass beds in Lake Tashmoo. These factors include nitrogen leaching from Title V septic systems, fertilizer used to maintain lawns, stormwater runoff, and goose feces. We are encouraged by the town's plan to develop a Targeted Watershed Management Plan (TWMP) for Lake Tashmoo, which we believe will continue and expand efforts to address many of these issues and, ultimately, keep us below the Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) of nitrogen established by Mass DEP for Lake Tashmoo.

Again, thank you for leading this important discussion regarding the health of one of our most cherished waterways. We look forward to participating in your March 22 meeting and hope you will support the two-year moratorium with the optional guest mooring program as we have proposed.

Sincerely,



Board of Directors
Tisbury Waterways, Inc.

WELCOME TO LAKE TASHMOO

- ◆ Idle Speed Only
- ◆ Sealed Heads
- ◆ Anchoring in Designated Areas Only
- ◆ No rafting - Maintain Social Distance
- ◆ Pump-Out Boat VHF Ch.9
- ◆ Permit Required for Shellfishing
- ◆ Harbormaster: 508-696-4249

SWIM AREA

SWIM AREA

Clam Flats

No Anchoring

Clam Flats

No Anchoring

MAIN CHANNEL



TASHMOO BOATYARD

SWIM
AREA

TOWN DOCK

1 Mile to Town

