



## **NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING**

August 24, 2021, at 4:00 pm

Meeting held by Zoom conferencing

### **DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Attendance (Participants as noted by Zoom): Trish Bridier, Mary Anne Easley, Frances Karttunen, Mary Longacre, Gail Nishimura, Gail Norton, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Charley Walters, and Paula Williams.

Thanks to the Atheneum, Amy Jenness, for hosting the meeting. which was recorded and the link (good for 30 days) is included here:

Meeting Recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-EDQhu-UY-2vL8hmUR8-1XN8ENzb0yaRQOy3xWh5QRC7\\_Hei8vkyV2Tia3N0-7We.9t5lfWuhTEt09jng](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-EDQhu-UY-2vL8hmUR8-1XN8ENzb0yaRQOy3xWh5QRC7_Hei8vkyV2Tia3N0-7We.9t5lfWuhTEt09jng)

Access Passcode: h\$Rd9U\$M

Guest: Roberto Santamaria, Director, Department of Health

#### **I. Call the August 24, 2021, Nantucket Town Association Meeting to Order.**

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. He announced that the meeting is being recorded and those who could not attend are welcome to use the above link to watch the recording.

#### **II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of July 27, 2021.**

Henry Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 24, 2021. Trish Bridier moved approval, Mary Anne Easley seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

#### **III. Treasurer's Report.**

Anne Terry, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report, attached, which had a beginning balance of \$3604.86, dues of \$25.00, and an end balance of \$3629.86. A motion to approve was made by

Mary Longacre, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously.

#### **IV. Old Business.**

Henry Terry said that there was one item of old business, namely the request for sponsorship of Nantucket Lights, which was part of last month's presentation on dark skies. Mary Longacre asked about the nature of the Association's involvement if it approves the request. Henry Terry answered that it would be for endorsement only and would involve no expense. Thence, a move to sponsor Nantucket Lights was made by Anne Terry, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously. Henry Terry will convey news of this action to Gail Walker, Coordinator of Nantucket Lights.

#### **V. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **VI. Guest Presentation: Roberto Santamaria, Director, Department of Health.**

Henry Terry introduced Roberto Santamaria who, he said, will give a status report on COVID-19 on Nantucket and answer questions about health status on Island. Roberto Santamaria started by talking about a secondary surge of COVID cases on Nantucket that began on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. A large gathering in a downtown bar was followed a few days later by a birthday party that had many of the same people who were in the bar as guests. One known case of the virus exploded into 450 cases because of these two events. He thought that around 50 percent of the Island's residents were fully vaccinated but acknowledged that uncertainty of the real number of residents and the fluid nature of Island residents' location meant that this was a guess at best.

Of those fully vaccinated, none was hospitalized. Evidence suggests that vaccines are effective: against COVID and its variants: 91 percent for Pfizer and 92 percent for Moderna. Young people are now more susceptible than in the earlier days of the pandemic. Fewer than 20 people have been transferred off Island for medical care. He noted that reported cases dropped after the mask order was reinstated. Cisco Brewery's requirement for masks to be worn by all customers has helped in reducing case loads also. Governor Baker will require all State workers to wear masks and a vaccination requirement by Massachusetts General Hospital for all of its employees will help bring attention to both masking and vaccination efficacy. Booster shots, recommended by the CDC to be given eight months after the second dose, will be available after September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Gail Nishimura asked about the data reported on the Nantucket dashboard, particularly the percentage of Nantucketers who had at least one shot and those with two shots. Roberto Santamaria said, while looking for the data, that variations of estimated populations can vary widely from the census number and those create broad ranges of denominators in the percentage calculations so that one must understand, the numbers are estimates at best. He found the data and said that, with the cautions given, 58 percent of the Island's population had at least one shot and 51 percent had both. Given that many residents travel to second homes, he noted that the

percentages may be greater but that he is unable to obtain data from other states. He noted that on-Island vaccine hesitancy may be in the order of 20 to 25 percent.

Mary Longacre asked if there were other health issues on the Island. She noted that COVID infections were important but that there may be important issues that have lost public attention because of the pandemic. Yes, certainly, housing and overcrowding are a key issue on Nantucket and he hoped that we may soon pay more attention to this important issue.

Henry Terry asked about how best to obtain the booster when it is available and the response was the outdoor clinic on First Way that operates Thursdays and Sundays; check with the departmental web site for specific location and times. Dan's Pharmacy will be providing boosters also. Gail Norton said that immune-compromised could get a third shot now and Roberto Santamaria agreed and said that a review of this condition can be found on the web site also. Mary Longacre asked about coordination between COVID vaccinations and those for the seasonal 'flu' and he said that the Nantucket Cottage Hospital will coordinate the administration of both. Up to four separate vaccinations can be given at the same time. Additional ones should be given a month later.

Paula Williams said that she had her vaccination card laminated before she learned of the booster. Roberto Santamaria said that she could have another one issued or that she could get proof of vaccination from the Patient Gateway at MGH. In a separate issue, Mary Longacre asked about health impacts from algal blooms in the ponds. He said that there has been little or no impact on humans and that a few pet animals have had to be treated but that he did not know of any serious impacts. Mary Longacre asked also about enforcement of the mask mandate and he said that the department has taken a gentle approach, finding that gentle persuasion worked on all but one or two resistant people. In response to a follow-on question about comparing Nantucket to the rest of the State, he said that the Island is a hot spot but, as our case numbers fall, it is trending toward the State's mean. Again, the Island's population is much greater than the approximately 11,000 used to calculate percentage so comparisons are not always accurate.

Lee Saperstein asked about airplane travel and Roberto Santamaria said that travelers should use the best mask that they can get such as the KN95. Several people noted that the ferry companies vary in their application of the mask mandate and he said that enforcement is up to the Coast Guard. Mary Longacre asked about future trends and he was optimistic, particularly as vaccines receive full approval from the FDA and approval for use on children. She asked also about the supply of vaccines and tests. For the latter, he said that personal tests, available from a pharmacy, are about to become cheaper and that the Island expects to receive a substantial number of vaccine doses when the booster shot is permitted. She then asked about potential targets for vaccinations and Roberto Santamaria said, that without doubt, it would be young people inasmuch as their vulnerability has risen. He noted that annual deaths will plunge from 600 thousand to around 13 thousand and that this will be a great achievement.

With no further questions and, in anticipation of adjournment, Henry Terry noted that next month's meeting will be the Annual Meeting and it is on September 28<sup>th</sup>. If it is held live, there may be an attendance limitation.

## **VI. Adjournment.**

Henry Terry called for a motion to adjourn and enough voices responded to move adjournment by acclamation at 4:46 pm.

**\*Next meeting is September 28th and will be via Zoom unless a decision to hold an in-person meeting is made; more information will be forthcoming with the next agenda; if one uses Zoom, registration is available at the same address as was used for this meeting.**

\*Please remember that we need to end the meeting by 5:00 pm so that the library staff may leave the building.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary,

DRAFT

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

Aug 24, 2021

Beginning Balance	\$3,604.86
Deposits Dues	25.00
End Balance	\$3,629.86

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