



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Meeting of April 24, 2018, at 4:00 pm
In the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Present: Mary Anne Easley, Richard Loftin, Peter Louderback, Colleen McLaughlin, Jane Miller, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Barbara von der Groeben, and Charley Walters.

Guest: Rob McNeil, Director, Department of Public Works.

I. Call to Order.

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm in the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum.

II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of March 27, 2018.

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting, March 27, 2018, was moved by Colleen McLaughlin, seconded by Jane Miller, and approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Anne Terry reported (attached) a deposit of \$25.00 in dues payments and a balance of \$4514.88. A motion to approve was made by Colleen McLaughlin, seconded by Mary Anne Easley, and approved unanimously. Lee Saperstein asked how we could help recruit new neighbors and Anne Terry suggested that we invite our near neighbors and proprietors of any shops that we frequent.

IV. New Business.

Mary Anne Easley introduced Barbara von der Groeben to the group and suggested that members introduce themselves.

As part of the President's report, Henry Terry told the group that he had a request from Thomas Bena for Association members to rate his film, "One Big Home," on iTunes. To do so, one goes to iTunes, searches for "One Big Home", and then clicks on "ratings and reviews."

He reported, also, that Thayer Hale, Manager at Looms, is looking for summer housing for herself and her family. If anyone knows of suitable housing, please contact her at the shop at 51 Main Street or www.nantucketlooms.com.

V. Old Business

The draft, strategic planning report on Transportation, Traffic, and Parking, from the Civic League's Committee on Strategic Planning was deferred to the May meeting.

VI. Guest Speaker. Rob McNeil, Director, Department of Public Works, DPW.

Rob McNeil introduced himself and his family and said how very pleased and proud he was to be here on Nantucket. He said that the DPW is involved in so many functions and tasks that there is a lot for him to take on. This Daffodil Weekend will see a lot of demand for DPW services. He was pleased to report two major projects that are now complete and ready for the public: South Beach Street repair, repaving, and construction of new sidewalks and the reconstruction of the 'Sconset rotary and flag pole. In a freewheeling discussion, he reported on many of the things on which his department is working.

With respect to the failure of the sewer force main downtown, he reported that he was off Island that day for a family funeral. He was pleased by the way everyone in the DPW pulled together to locate and fix the leak. He also learned, perhaps more rapidly than he would have liked, a lot about the Island's infrastructure. For example, the power cables that connect National Grid from the Cape to Nantucket, lie on top of the force main on South Beach Street. He pondered that things that date back to the 1930s may not be reliable. There is a second force main, which was put into service shortly after the first one failed, and it is now serving the Sea Street pumping station. The first one has been repaired and is capable of coming back on line; it is not needed as long as the second force main remains viable. He would like to replace the line that has been repaired and recognizes that this would be a major project. Thinking about replacement opens up all sorts of questions about connected issues such as fixing the cobblestones on Main Street and its sidewalks. One of the realities of the DPW's functions is that it services many things that are underground, of which the public is unaware, and that, nonetheless, need to be maintained and replaced, many sooner than later.

He was pleased that coordination among the three infrastructure departments, DPW, Water, and Sewer, is a new and valuable thing. The three heads meet regularly and this reduces duplication of effort and increases the speed of response.

He moved to the sidewalk restoration project, under planning for years, which is now underway. In addition to the work on South Beach Street, portions of the sidewalks along Easy Street have been rebuilt. Because Straight Wharf and Broad Street are the main entries to the Town for pedestrians from the ferries, he is anxious to complete all of the work planned for Easy Street and Straight Wharf by next winter.

With respect to the pedestrian crossings at the intersection of South Beach and Broad Streets, which must support heavy truck traffic coming from the ferry or out of the truck lane alongside Broad Street, they have been constructed differently from the past. By placing eight to ten inches of concrete as a subbase and then covering it with stone dust, the newly laid brick is now able to support fully loaded trucks without deforming. This construction is an example of his design philosophy, which is to do it right the first time so that the work survives and does not need to be repaired or replaced any time in the near future.

Richard Loftin asked about recycled paper going directly into the household garbage bins. Frequently, he said, the doors to the recycle chutes are closed and people are directed to put their paper into the household bins. Rob McNeil explained how paper recycling works. He also acknowledged that the dump buildings need to be renovated, which would reduce the problem. When paper goes into the household stream it goes into the digester where it becomes high-quality compost. DPW is working with Waste Options, the company with a contract to manage the Waste Recycling Facility, aka The Dump, to improve the quality of this compost. They are doing a better job of removing tramp glass and plastic from the compost, which makes it a better product for use in gardens. He said, also, that when the price is right for recycled paper, it is baled and sent off Island. The tipping point for this choice depends upon the value of waste paper and the cost of shipping. Waste Options has been told to maximize the profit from recycling but low prices and high shipping costs mean that a lot of our paper goes to the digester. The DPW is in the process of hiring a recycling coordinator, who should help to increase the efficiency of dump operations. In addition, to ease congestion entering the dump and, thus, back-ups on the Madaket Road, they will soon create a new lane after the gate that leads directly to the scale. The existing lane will be a left-turn only lane.

Colleen McLaughlin asked about an altogether separate entrance for scale traffic that would use the second entrance from the Madaket Road to the scales. Rob McNeil replied that he was reluctant to do that because of security issue. Anne Terry asked about placing a receptacle (dumpster) for yard waste in the entrance so that gardeners did not have to cross the scale. Rob McNeil asked her if yard waste could be composted at home. Several people replied that in-town gardens do not have a lot of space for a compost bin and, also, much of the waste is trimming from shrubs that does not compost well. Rob McNeil said that he would explore off-site drop-off zones during garden season.

Mining the dump, which is underway, has the goal of reducing overall volume but it raises big questions on the future of a landfill facility on the Island. Mining reduces the volume of the existing fill zones but it does not eliminate them. The policy question that must be resolved some time in the near future is whether or not we want keep our trash on Island or ship all of it off Island.

Henry Terry asked about the Solar Belly trash receptacles and whether we have any measure of their usage. Rob McNeil replied that they are robust and the DPW does empty them regularly. Henry Terry wanted to know if the demand-notification system works. Rob McNeil acknowledged that in the summer season, those by the popular beaches have to be emptied two or three times a day so the notification function is not relevant. The compaction function is useful.

The simpler beer-barrel trash barrels need to be re-evaluated. New tops and labels are helping but there may be even better ways of encouraging their use. Marking them with universally recognized colors for trash and recycling helps for people who do not have English as a first language. So would the use of symbols. At beaches, where winds can spread garbage from overturned barrels, wooden support racks help to reduce wind-blown trash.

Cemeteries are one of his major interests. He is working to up-grade maintenance at the Town Cemeteries. For example, the DPW is replacing all of the fencing at a cemetery instead of replacing the obvious broken rails. In reality, if individual posts and rails start to fail, most of them would need to be replaced anyhow. In keeping with his philosophy of doing things once and not having to re-do them, total replacement is easier on the DPW and much more attractive to the Town.

He asked if people had seen the vegetation restoration/management efforts along roadways from Wauwinet to Madaket. There has been a meaningful amount of brush cutting along our out-of-town roads. In addition to increasing the attractiveness of the roads, it helps with sight lines around curves and over hills.

Installing and maintaining street furniture and signage are part of the beautification of the Island. Mary Anne Easley thanked him for DPW's rapid response to a drainage issue on her property. This brought up a reflection of the need for a massive, Island-wide effort for a condition-assessment of the storm water system. From this issue of storm water drainage, there was a lead into a discussion of emergency responses for high groundwater levels. Alongside the emergency responses, there is an equivalent high-level of paperwork required by the State.

He ended his presentation by cycling back to a discussion of the investigation of the force main failure. From the point of failure to the sewage plant, they dug 16 to 20 inspection pits to allow the use of cameras and found six other points of breakage. There are so many overlapping issues for the DPW.

VII. Adjournment.

A move to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Terry and seconded by Charley Walters. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

The next Nantucket Town Association meeting will be on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, in the Learning Lab* of the Atheneum. The main agenda item will be to continue discussion of the Transportation and Parking strategic-planning draft. We will be joined by Charles Stott of the Civic League.

*Please remember that our use of the Learning Lab ends promptly at 5 p.m. We need to vacate the room and the building so that the next meeting group can access the room.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

April 24, 2018

Beginning Balance	\$4,489.88
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Deposits	+ 25.00
Dues	

Expenditures	0
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End balance	\$4,514.88
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Respectfully submitted,
Anne Terry