



## **NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING**

March 23, 2021, at 4:00 pm

Meeting held by Zoom conferencing

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

Attendance: Trish Bridier, Mary Anne Easley, Marsha Fader, Michael Lease, Mary Longacre, Craig Muhlhauser, Gail Nishimura, Robin Nydes, Lee Saperstein, Janel Schulte, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Charley Walters, Paula Williams.

Thanks to the Atheneum, Janet Forest and Amy Jenness, for hosting the meeting. They have sent a list of registrants that is attached to these minutes.

Guest: Mark Willett, Director, Wannacomet Water Company

#### **I. Call to Order.**

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. He reminded the group that the meeting was being recorded. He promised to end the meeting before 5:00 pm. Because of time constraints on our speaker, he will be invited to go first and then we will turn to the business part of the agenda.

#### **II. Guest Speaker. Mark Willett, Director, Wannacomet Water Company.**

After being introduced by Henry Terry, Mark Willett, Director of the Wannacomet Water Company, started by saying that he was glad to be back before the Nantucket Town Association. At his previous presentation he related how the water company was working to expand its network of new and replacement water mains. This project is still underway. He then told the group that they pumped more water than ever before last summer. Probably because of the pandemic, people came to Nantucket earlier than normal and stayed longer.

They are working with the airport to provide it and its neighbors with mains water so as to replace wells that have been contaminated with PFAS chemicals.

He then moved on to talk about the new solar panel project for the land at Wyer's Valley. A full report on this project can be found on their pages in the Town's website. Lee Saperstein said

that one of their panel locations straddled the historic Nantucket Railroad and Mark Willett said that they were very aware of this and would do their best to preserve Nantucket history. He invited members to visit the Water Company to see where the solar panels are to go.

For other projects, he came back to the water-main expansion on North Liberty Street and told the group that the Water Company is working cooperatively with the Sewer Department who are using the opportunity of road closure to renew the sewer pipes along that route. This way they only have to open the trenches once. The pipe-laying work is done and they expect to be able to repave North Liberty Street in two to three weeks with all work being done by the end of April or early May.

As part of an effort to create a 3-D map of Nantucket's groundwater resources, they are drilling at the North Pasture location of the water tower, Wyer's Valley, the State Forest, and other publicly owned locations. Henry Terry asked about the depth of the holes and Mark Willett replied that they had been going 400 feet down. They discovered, however, that the lowest aquifer was deeper than that and, thus, future holes will be 800-feet deep.

Essentially, there are three aquifers under Nantucket: a shallow, perched layer at about 80 feet of depth, which is separated by a clay layer from the second one that is our main water source. This water dates back to the last ice age, the Wisconsin Era of about 14,000 years ago. The third aquifer is separated from the second by approximately 100 feet of clay and is extensive, pre-historic, and, obviously, non-rechargeable from current precipitation. He called it "Lake Nantucket" and said that there was no plan to ever extract water from it.

Mary Longacre asked if they monitor groundwater and the answer was yes. Her follow-on question asked if last summer's pumping caused any problems, particularly with their State permit. This time, the answer was "no." The state permit has been extended and he does not foresee the State limiting pumping. He also indicated that water usage suggests a year-round population of 20,000 people and he is hopeful that this number will be supported by others. He has kept the State informed about the growth in housing units on Island. Recently, the Water Company has been installing transducers in the wells that they have drilled. Eight are in now and they hope to have as many as 50 in time. Mary Longacre's last question was whether or not groundwater levels have risen because of recent rain events. Definitely yes, was the answer.

Lee Saperstein asked if the Water Company was involved in the Lily Pond drainage problem and Mark Willett said, no, that this was a DPW and Sewer Department issue. He added, though, that they cooperate with other departments, particularly with the land surveying capabilities that they have. Marsha Fader asked if storm drains were part of their combined renewal work. He replied, again, yes; they have repaired and replaced storm drains as they and the sewer department work on Town streets. Henry Terry asked "what next" in the way of projects and the reply was to continue to replace old water mains. The replacement of the sewer force main from Sea Street to the treatment plant will allow them, while streets are closed and the trenches open, to replace water mains along this route. The re-construction of the intersection of Washington Street and Francis Street to allow for ease of truck traffic at that corner, will allow them to go down and replace some water mains that have been leaking. He indicated that this will probably happen next fall and winter.

When Henry Terry asked if there were any more questions, Mark Willett volunteered information about renewing the playing fields on Nobadeer Farm Road, including re-building the field house. He felt that it was good for children to be outside and this project would help to do this safely. Janet Schulte asked about progress in installing the new water fountains and water-bottle refill stations. He said that they were doing so and that he intended to buy spares for additional installations this summer and in case they are needed for maintenance.

### **III. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of February 23, 2020.**

At this point in the meeting, President Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2021. Marsha Fader asked if the Association could approve editorial changes to her comments at that meeting. In item VI. Guest Speaker, third paragraph, third sentence, she asked that it read, “She asked if you could require the use of ear buds in the same way that they are in standard use on public travel in airplanes and buses.” Again, in the same section, paragraph four, second sentence, she asked that it read, “Could they add to their announcements stating that no broadcasting of music, FaceTime conversations, videos, or games is permitted?” With these amendments, Anne Terry moved approval, Trish Bridier seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

### **III. Treasurer’s Report.**

Anne Terry gave the Treasurer’s report, attached, which had a beginning balance of \$3,646.70, to which dues of \$415.00 were added, along with an uncashed contribution check that she added back into the account and a deduction for a filing fee of \$15.00, creating an end balance of \$4,346.70. A motion to approve was made by Mary Longacre, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously.

### **IV. Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **V. New Business**

Lee Saperstein reminded attendees that, immediately after this meeting, at 5:00 pm, there was to be a public forum on night-sky lighting, “The Dark Skies forum.”

Henry Terry announced that the Planning office had modified our suggested map for the Nantucket Town Association’s local area plan. He will invite representatives of the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission to our next meeting to explain the changes and to bring us up to date on our request to develop a plan.

Robin Nydes introduced himself as a new member of the Nantucket Town Association and as a guiding member of Nantucket Together, <https://nantuckettogether.org/>, an organization created by a large group of part-time residents to oppose Warrant Article 90, a proposed bylaw on “Short-Term Rentals.” He said that he would explain why he was opposed but first wanted to

say that the Nantucket Civic League would be sending a survey to its member associations in an effort to base its collective opinion on Article 90 on their reactions to it.

Lee Saperstein, Vice-President of the Nantucket Civic League, explained that the League's Board of Directors is comprised of the Area Association Presidents plus members of the Executive Committee and that the Executive Committee did not want to act unilaterally without consent of the full board. The meetings of the Executive Committee are open and the next one will be Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, to which all are welcome.

Marsha Fader asked for a brief summary of the issues. Robin Nydes explained that a group called ACT-Now, <https://www.acknow.org/>, seeks to limit short-term rentals on the Nantucket, particularly those owned by corporate investor groups. In the opinion of Nantucket Together, however, the warrant article will hurt the hundreds or more part-time and full-time residents who have rented their homes for years, if not decades, when they are not using them. He also explained that ACK-Now modified its suggested article after its first hearing before the Finance Committee. He said that Nantucket Together would be assembling fact sheets on the issue and would circulate them as soon as they were ready.

## **VI. Adjournment.**

At 4:57 pm, Henry Terry called for a motion to adjourn; Anne Terry did so, Mary Longacre seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

**\*Next meeting is April 27<sup>th</sup> and will be via 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,

## **Registrants**

Bevis, Chris  
Breed, Anne  
Breed, J. Harry  
Bridier, Trish  
Briskman, Eugene  
Cody, Roland  
Davis, Margaret  
Dodge, Walter  
Dickler, Howard  
Duffy, Michael  
Easley, Mary Anne  
Eger, Margaret  
Ellis, Caroline  
Fader, Marsha  
Gesner, Julie  
Grape, Peter  
Lease, Michelle  
Lilly, Debi  
Longacre, Mary  
MacLeod, Angus  
Moss, Jamie  
Muhlhauser, Craig  
Murphy, Kit  
Nishimura, Gail  
Nydes, Peter  
Perkins, Wendy  
Saperstein, Lee  
Schulte, Janet  
Anne Terry  
Henry Terry  
Walters, Charley  
Willaur, Will  
Willett, Mark  
Williams, Paula

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report March 23, 2021

Beginning Balance		\$3,646.70
Deposits		
Dues		\$415.00
Uncashed check #192 to Rotary		\$300.00
Expenditures		
State filing fee		\$15.00
End Balance		\$4,346.70

DRAFT