



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING

February 23, 2021, at 4:00 pm

Meeting held by Zoom conferencing

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Attendance: See Attached list of registered attendees of the Zoom meeting. Thanks to the Atheneum, Janet Forest and Amy Jenness, for hosting the meeting.

I. Call to Order.

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. He reminded the group that the meeting was being recorded. He promised to end the meeting before 5:00 pm.

II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of January 26, 2020.

Approval of the minutes of the January 26th meeting was moved by Trish Bridier, seconded by Anne Terry, and approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Anne Terry gave the Treasurer's report, attached, which had a beginning balance of \$3231.70, to which dues of \$415.00 were added, creating an end balance of \$3,646.70. A motion to approve was made by Mary Anne Easley, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business

There was no old business.

V. New Business

Henry Terry introduced Hillary Rayport, Chair of the Nantucket Historical Commission, who said that her committee was interested in residents' views of outdoor dining and would the Town Association be willing to administer a survey, the results of which could be shared with the Town, in particular the licensing office. If agreeable, she would like to have the survey posted and assessed by the end of March. Henry Terry asked if she would provide the association with

a draft and she said, yes. Mary Longacre suggested that the survey ask separately about dining on sidewalks versus dining on closed streets. Henry Terry thanked Hillary Rayport and asked if there was a motion to approve the survey. Anne Terry moved approval, Gail Norton seconded it, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Mary Longacre asked if there was a move to update the Association's web site and Henry Terry said that there was and the changes would be seen soon.

VI. Guest Speakers: Nantucket Steamship Authority Board Secretary, Rob Ranney, and Nantucket Port Council Member, Nat Lowell.

Henry Terry introduced Rob Ranney, Steamship Authority Board Member, and Nat Lowell, Port Council Member, to tell the Association about new developments with the Steamship Authority and to answer members' questions. Rob Ranney explained that the five Board members represent their individual communities – he is Nantucket's voice on the Board. He also talked about the Authority's good relations with the HyLine and how well they coordinate schedules.

Nat Lowell told the group that there soon will be a new excursion rate for people who keep a car in the Steamship Authority's Cape parking lots and want to bring it back on Island. The use of the rate will be unlimited. He explained that many people keep a car on the Cape during the winter but bring it back to Nantucket for the summer. They will now be eligible for this excursion rate. He announced also that WiFi has been installed in the freight deck of the MV Eagle, allowing drivers who stay with their vehicles to have access to the Internet.

Marsha Fader said that the public use of cell phones, laptops, and other devices with loudspeakers was highly disturbing to her and to all passengers who look forward to a quiet ride on the boat. She asked if there was any thought to designating the boat as a quiet zone or to post notices asking that ear buds be used instead of loudspeakers. Rob Ranney replied that this was a difficult problem that had been discussed by the Board. The issue was how to ask the crew, particularly the Purser, to monitor device use without endangering them. He recounted the time that a fight broke out over the choice of TV channel on a boat, which led to the use of a local neutral channel to be displayed on the boats. Lee Saperstein suggested that the Authority designate, similarly to Amtrak, a quiet zone on each boat. Nat Lowell said that additional power sockets are to be installed on the boats, particularly the MV Nantucket, to keep people from clustering around the available ones.

Marsha Fader said that the public announcements on the boats tell passengers about how to control children and pets. Could they add one about respect for fellow passengers by asking cell-phone users to avoid loud conversations. She asked if there was a formal method for asking for this change and Rob Ranney replied that they had heard her.

Lee Saperstein suggested that the crew, particularly the officers, make an effort to engage with passengers while they do their rounds of the boat. Nat Lowell said that they would talk to the Port Captain about this suggestion.

Trish Bridier said that she deeply misses the Drive-On/Drive-off utility of the Steamship Authority. Rob Ranney said that the temporary cessation of that procedure was to protect employees during the pandemic. They continue to examine possible changes to the policy that will allow for drive-on/drive-off yet provide safety for employees. Nat Lowell added that driver service is necessary for trucks but that cars present too much of a chance for transmission of infection to employees. They continue to look at ways to provide return services for Island cars and that includes cars being sent to the Cape for servicing by car dealers.

Mary Longacre, reflecting on pre-pandemic unavailability of reservations on particular summer days, asked if the Authority was doing any long-term planning to handle growth. Nat Lowell said that this was a good question. The current schedule limit is nine slow boats a day, which includes three freight boats. It is not possible to add to that schedule. In the future they might build another Woods Hole-type freight boat to replace one of the open-deck freight boats. This would give more vehicle deck space and include space for walk-on passengers. It might require more dock space, if possible, in the crowded Hyannis harbor. They can, however, juggle reservations, moving, for example, trucks to a freight boat freeing up deck space for cars. They have already extended the six-boat-per-day summer schedule into the shoulder season.

Henry Terry asked about the prospect for rate increases and Rob Ranney replied that their expenses rise relentlessly. Nat Lowell added that they have done well with fuel expenses, particularly with a hedge on supplies, but wages and maintenance costs continue to rise. He added that their new maintenance chief has done an excellent job of coordination with the two ship yards that maintain their boats so as to minimize the loss of availability of boats. He also praised their main reservations office who are ready to help passengers with ordinary reservations and those that present problems such as medical emergencies.

Hillary Rayport asked about efforts to add sustainability to their operations: reduction in single-use plastics for instance or using electrical baggage tow trucks. Nat Lowell said that they continue to fight against an attitude that suggests that “we’ve always done it that way.” Frequently, the baggage cart, which is 26-ft long, goes on the boat with only one or two bags in it. They are exploring the use of small, battery-powered golf carts fitted with carrier racks.

Gail Norton asked about the ownership of the sidewalk on Broad Street alongside the truck parking area. She felt that it was in need of renovation. Lee Saperstein said that the Town has a sidewalk restoration program and that Easy Street and the streets that connect to it are next on the list for re-building. The DPW held a public forum about these plans on Easy Street just a month or so ago. Nat Lowell allowed as how truck parking was difficult but that better shielding and separation could be installed. He said that the Authority is looking at the possibility of grants that can be used to pay for capital improvements to their terminals. There is a substantial rebuild of the Woods Hole terminal underway now. They have learned how to rotate out their freight bridges so that their maintenance stays current with minimum interruption to service.

With no further questions, Henry Terry adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm

VI. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

***Next meeting is March 23rd 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,

Registered Attendees for the Nantucket Town Association Meeting of February 23, 2021

Burton Balkind
Judith Belash
Chris Bevis
Alice Breed
J. Harry Breed
Trish Bridier
Diane Brickley
Gene Briskman
Barbara Daley
Peggy Davis
Howard Dickler
Walter Dodge
Michael Duffy
Mary Anne Easley
Margaret Eger
Richard Elkman
Caroline Ellis
Marsha Fader
Janet Forest
Bill Klein
Katherine Logue
Mary Longacre
Nat Lowell
Angus MacLeod
Craig Muhlhauser
Katherine Murphy
Gail Nishiumura
Gail Norton
Rob Ranney
Hillary Rayport
Lee Saperstein
William Seay
Kate Shea
Richard Tasca
Anne Terry
Henry Terry
Elizabeth Ueland
Barbara von der
Groeben
Charley Walters
Randy Wight
Paula Williams
Will Willaurer

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

Feb 23, 2021

Beginning Balance	\$3,231.70
Deposits/dues	\$415.00
Expenditures	\$0.00
End Balance	\$3,646.70

DRAFT