



**NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION**

Annual Meeting of Members

September 24, 2019, at 4:00 pm

In the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum

Followed by a social event at the Brotherhood

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Present: Barbara G. Cohen, Mary Anne Easley, Marsha Fader, Richard Loftin, Tom McGlin, Colleen McLaughlin, Gail Norton, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Barbara von der Groeben, and Paula Williams.

Guest: Graeme Durovich, Town Recycling/Solid Waste Coordinator

**I. Call to Order.**

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm in the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum.

**II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of August 27, 2019.**

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting, August 27, 2019, was done by unanimous acclamation

**III. Treasurer's Report.**

Treasurer Anne Terry reported (attached) no change in the account with a balance of \$4,395.20. The report was accepted by unanimous acclamation.

**IV. New Business: Nomination of Officers.**

Henry Terry, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee recommended nomination and election of the existing slate of officers. The recommendation was accepted as a motion and approved unanimously. The following were elected.

**Officers:**

Henry Terry, President  
Peter Louderback, First Vice President  
Barbara G. Cohen, Second Vice President  
Lee Saperstein, Recording Secretary  
*Vacant*, Corresponding Secretary  
Anne Terry, Treasurer  
C. Richard Loftin, Clerk

**Directors:**

Peggy Altreuter  
Carol Cross  
Mary Anne Easley  
Colleen McLaughlin  
Jane Miller  
John Wagley  
Paula Williams

**Advisors:**

Alexandra LaPaglia  
Eileen McGrath  
Gail Norton  
William Sherman  
Mark Voigt  
Charley Walters

**V. Old Business.**

There was no Old Business.

**VI. Guest Speaker: Graeme Durovich, DPW Recycling Solid-Waste Coordinator**

Graeme Durovich began her presentation by reminding the group of the new sorting protocols at the Recycling Center Drop-Off (aka Dump). There are three waste categories: recyclables (separated into shipping boxes, glass, plastic, and tin/aluminum), compostable waste (food scraps and paper combined), and non-compostable and non-recyclable waste (everything else). Inasmuch as the compostable materials eventually become compost for use by Nantucketers, they are trying to clean up the intake stream into the composter so that the output is freer of glass and plastic than it has been in the past. They are also trying to reduce what goes into the landfill so as to extend its life.

To determine the effectiveness of the campaign to recycle and reduce waste, the DPW has analyzed what goes into the waste stream. Last fall, they had a project with the WPI students to sample the waste stream. The DPW and Waste Options (WON) repeated the waste sort study this summer during peak season, and will continue to do waste stream audits during the high and low seasons. They are working with the on-Island waste haulers to help them to comply with the new sorting rules. In response to a question, Graeme Durovich said that about 25 percent of their waste stream is dropped off by residents and 75 percent comes from the haulers.

She also told the group that follow-up sessions to the Waste Summit were coming up: September 26, composting and waste management technologies; October 17, hazardous waste (Training Room); November 14, construction site, roadside, and coastal litter (Training Room); December 12, Summary (Community Room). All sessions will be held in the Public Safety Facility (4 Fairgrounds Road), from 6:00 to 8:00 pm: <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/1429/Waste-Summit>

She pointed out the Town's contract with Waste Options expires in 2025. It should not be left to the last minute to react to this. They need to answer the question of what comes next. Should they continue what is currently being done, should all waste be shipped off Island or should they invest in innovative disposal systems or is there anything else that can be done?

They have been monitoring public waste barrels for both volume and the nature of the waste. Downtown is worse than other districts including beaches for illegal dumping of household and business waste. Overflowing barrels create work for everyone, pollute our environment, and litter the downtown. New barrel lids that are the universal color for each waste stream will be deployed by next summer

A question was asked about what people should do with their waste when they leave the island. The answer was that the preference would be for them to go to the dump before they leave or, even, to take it with them to the mainland. Another person asked if the haulers can be persuaded to do custom pick-ups in addition to the scheduled visits. Apparently, yes, she replied; just call them.

For the next major issue, she reminded the group that on June 1, 2020, single-use non-compostable plastics will be illegal for commercial use and distribution. The Town's informal work group is working with the Stop and Shop supermarket, the Cumberland stores, and local businesses to prepare them to replace the plastic items that they will not be allowed to sell. The ban includes single-portion drinking water bottles but not those for flavored or sweetened sodas; it certainly includes straws and soda-can 6-pack yokes: <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/1475/Single-Use-Plastics-Ban>. Shops will be selling alternatives to things that we used to see in petroleum-based plastic: cups, lids, straws, plates, etc. Much discussion and many questions ensued.

Several of the questions centered on compostable plastics and whether or not they would help. The reply was that current compostable plastics likely do not break down within the residence time in the composter. DPW and WON are working on testing what breaks down in the Composter. They are working on improving composting of alternative materials including compostable plastics. The next question had to do with corn-based plastics and whether or not they are compostable. They are compostable in an industrial composter was the reply but we are not certain of the time needed and whether this is short enough to work in our composter, which is not an industrial composter.

In general, she said, if it looks like plastic, treat it like plastic. When we are sure of a plastic's composting characteristics, we will post it.

Tom McGlin asked about the current problems that the haulers have in sorting wastes. Graeme Durovich answered that we are working with them in multiple meetings to help them improve sorting. Henry Terry asked how much of our wastes are we shipping off Island. The answer was that compostable wastes and glass stay on Island, as well as any contaminants in Compostable waste; all else goes off. At present, this is roughly two tractor trailers a day for Construction and Demolition waste alone.

Another question asked if mining of the landfill for re-processing is still going on. In general, mining finished on June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Mining has reduced the area of the landfill to one-third of the original footprint. No more mining will be happening per the permit from Massachusetts Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) and so the capping process of the unlined cell (1A, 1B, and 1C) and the filled lined cells (2A and 2B) has begun. Countries, often in the third world, that took our wastes for re-processing are no longer willing to accept and pay for them. This is particularly true for plastics, especially if they are contaminated.

Non-Recyclable/Non-Compostable waste (NRNC) and Construction and Demolition wastes go to separate receiving facilities on the mainland. Other materials such as electronics and mattresses go to other facilities.

The composter treats about 12,000 tons per year. She described the operation of the composter and its working temperatures. Screens remove non-compostable material and then the compost goes into windrows inside the composting building for further decomposition and then outside to additional composting windrows and then finally to bins for home use. The finished compost is tested regularly and is benign.

She has been working for a year in a newly established Town position and is pleased at how cooperative the community has been. She passed out maps of water-bottle filling stations. These maps and copies of the information sheets are also on the web. An extensive A to Z list of materials is on the DPW web site (<https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/1428/Waste-Items-A-to-Z>) to help residents decide whether an item is compostable. She was delighted with the critical thinking skills and depth of engagement from the fifth graders who were working on educational videos in English ([https://youtu.be/xLric\\_6NRnE](https://youtu.be/xLric_6NRnE)) and Spanish (<https://youtu.be/zGepPt7mXOs>) on sorting waste. The students also wrote radio spots (heard on 89.5 and 97.7), jingles, and material for social media.

### **VIII. Other Business and Comments.**

None.

### **VII. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm and members went to a social at the Brotherhood.

**•Next Meeting is October 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Learning Lab.**

\*Please remember that our use of the Learning Lab ends promptly at 5 p.m. We need to leave the Atheneum at 5:00 pm so that staff can lock the building.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary,

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

Sept 24, 2019

Beginning Balance	\$4,395.20
Deposits	
Dues	0
Expenditures	0
End Balance	\$4,395.20

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Terry