



## **NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION**

Meeting of May 23, 2017

In the Atheneum Learning Lab

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

Present: Barbara G. Cohen, Mary Anne Easley, Carol Emerson, Peter Louderback, Colleen McLaughlin, Jane Miller, Gail Norton, Lee Saperstein, Bill Seay, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Paula Williams.

Guests: Jeff Carlson, Coordinator, Natural Resources, Artell Crowley, Assistant Health Director.

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

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

#### **II. Approval of minutes of meeting of April 25, 2017.**

Colleen McLaughlin moved approval of the minutes of the previous meeting; Paula Williams seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.

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

Treasurer Anne Terry reported (attached) a balance of \$3799.73. She received a single dues payment of \$20.00 and paid communication expenses of \$406.73; she also made the approved \$500.00 contribution for the sign at the African Meeting House. Acceptance of the report was moved by Paula Williams, seconded by Colleen McLaughlin, and approved unanimously. She commented that the outreach to members, new and existing, has resulted in an in-pouring of dues that she will deposit promptly and will report formally at the next meeting.

#### **IV. New Business**

**A. Announcements/Updates.** Jane Miller reported that the steering committee had met last week to review the April meeting and to plan for the balance of meetings until the Annual

Meeting. Today's speakers were confirmed. Airport Director Tom Rafter will come to our meeting of June 27<sup>th</sup>; a Steamship Authority representative will be invited for the meeting of July 25<sup>th</sup>; Health Director Roberto Santamaria has confirmed that he can meet with us on August 22<sup>nd</sup>; and in September she is hoping to have someone such as Libby Oldham or Bill Sherman to speak about the early days of the Nantucket Town Association.

She commented that the restoration to the War Memorial has been done very well. She spoke briefly about a meeting of her, the Director of the Chamber of Commerce, the co-Presidents of the Nantucket Civic League, and the the Town's transportation planner, Mike Burns, to talk about possible improvements to the parking situation downtown. Minutes of that meeting were circulated and are attached to these minutes.

Lee Saperstein added to her comments about the War Memorial by reminding everyone that the Memorial Day Parade will start on Sunday, May 28, 2017, at 1:00 pm at the Legion Hall and will stop at the Memorial shortly afterwards; there will be a few short words of re-dedication at the Memorial.

**B. NTA Annual Meeting (August 22, 2017).** The Annual Meeting is the start of the new year for the Association. In addition to the speaker, a formal vote on the slate of Directors will be held and the elected officers will assume duties at the end of the meeting.

## **V. Old Business**

A. Nominating Committee Report. Barbara Cohen, on behalf of her, Peter Louderback, and Henry Terry, the Nominating Committee, gave the tentative slate of nominees for the Executive Committee in the next year. After she read out the list, below, she asked for additional nominations, of which there was none.

Officers	Directors	Advisors
President: Henry Terry	Jane Miller	Jon Aron
First Vice President: Peter Louderback	Carol Cross	Gail Norton
Second Vice President: Barbara Cohen	Mary Anne Easley	Tristram Dammin
Recording Secretary: Lee Saperstein	Colleen McLaughlin	Eileen McGrath
Corresponding Secretary: Alexandra LaPaglia	Paula Williams	William Sherman
Treasurer: Anne Terry	John Wagley	Mark Voigt
Clerk: C. Richard Loftin		Charles Walters

B. Report on "One Big Home screening". Paula Williams reminded the committee that the film is due to be projected June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Atheneum Great Hall. Publicity flyers have been distributed widely and scheduling notices have been given to publishers of digital and print calendars.

C. Report on Membership Post Card. Mary Anne Easley told us that cards – she held one up -- went into

the mail about two weeks ago. It was these cards that stimulated the submission of dues and membership applications reported in the item in the Treasurer's report. Several people said that they had not received a card, to which Mary Anne Easley said that they should send a corrected address to her or, if they discover that they are not members, use the membership application on the web site ([www.nantuckettownassociation.org](http://www.nantuckettownassociation.org)).

**VI. Speakers: Artell Crowley, Assistant Health Director, and Jeff Carlson, Natural Resources Coordinator for the Town of Nantucket**

Jeff Carlson led the talk by saying that the Department of Natural Resources is concerned with Water quality. For the Town Association, the areas of concern are the watersheds for the harbor, particularly the downtown portion, and nearby ponds such as Miacomet. Departmental staff monitor water quality and present results to the public. In the tourist season, monitoring occurs weekly or more frequently. Our goal is to stay below the Total Daily Maximum Loads, TDML, set by the State. The contaminants of concern are those from excess nutrients: nitrogen in saltwater and phosphorus in fresh water.

On the whole, our water-quality numbers are improving and, as we approach consistent compliance with the TDML goals, we are creating assessment and mapping schemes to see if the lowering in nutrient concentrations are matched by environmental improvements. The environmental factors are eelgrass beds, shellfish counts, and an increase in diverse populations of plants and animals. To improve water quality we deal with three factors: septic and sewage systems, application of fertilizers, and stormwater runoff and outfalls. We have partnered with the Nantucket Land Council to increase our capability to monitor stormwater quality. We are looking at parking areas to see if we can capture stormwater for uses such as irrigation instead of letting it flow unchecked into the harbor.

A question was asked about landscapers who use blowers to clean up but, instead, merely send the debris into our yards. In other words, how do we get landscapers to clean up after themselves instead of blowing material into other people's property? The response was that, except for fertilizer spillage, good clean-up practices are not mandated by law but they are part of good neighborliness. Talk to them and ask them to use good practices. If they ignore you, call us or send us an e-mail and we will follow up.

Peter Louderback asked, in the spirit of our mission, is there a Natural Resources project or projects on which we can cooperate or provide our endorsement.

Barbara Cohen asked about frequency of well testing and good practice. Artell said that there is a new regulation that will require wells to be tested once every two years. Good practice, however, is once a year. He suggested that one buys a sample bottle at a pharmacy and, without opening it or touching under the cap until a sample is to be drawn, fill it from a faucet that is as close as possible to the well. Let the water run before filling the bottle so as to get water from the well rather than that which sat in the pipes overnight. Bring us a sample by 9:15 am on a Tuesday and we will send it off to the Barnstable County lab. The cost is \$45 to the Barnstable lab and \$5 to the Town for mailing.

Artell Crowley then talked about the three big three issues in the Health Department for water quality: septic systems, sewerage, and fertilizer. He explained that, now that a number of neighborhoods will be getting sewers, there are issues that arise when a household transfers from septic to sewer, including proper abandonment of old septic systems. Their department will be monitoring the incidence of sewer hook-ups to ensure that they are happening in a timely fashion.

Barbara Cohen asked if we could help to educate the public by distributing the helpful advice that you are giving us. We have a website and a newsletter that is read by most of our members. Additionally, on your web site, you could post a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) column along with longer informational pieces about correct management of septic systems.

Colleen McLaughlin asked if their department has done outreach to the schools. Yes, was the reply. We have done educational presentations to all ages but we prefer to work with those students who are old enough to do projects because they tend to become more involved and passionate about the environment if they have something on which they work.

Jane Miller asked if there are any failed septic systems discharging to the harbor. Artell Crowley answered by saying that things are much improved. Inspections have identified failed systems and they are being repaired or replaced by sewer connections.

Jane Miller asked about Long Pond and the incidence of algal blooms. Jeff Carlson said that we monitor regularly but, since conditions can change rapidly, if you see something doubtful, call us. Long Pond is an interesting challenge because it has so many environmental problems. As a positive note, however, it is the only pond on the Island that has hit its quality targets three years in a row.

As the time approached 5:00 pm, Jane Miller thanked them for coming and closed the meeting.

## **VII. Adjournment\*.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm by unanimous acclamation.

**The next Nantucket Town Association meeting will be June 27, 2017, at 4 p.m., in the Learning Lab at The Atheneum.**

\*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

May 23, 2017

Beginning Balance	\$4,686.46
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Deposits	20
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Expenditures

Reimbursement to A. La Paglia for annual website fees and post card mailing	406.73
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Donation to African Meeting House for new sign.	500.00
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Total	906.73
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End Balance	\$3,799.73
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Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Terry

## **Nantucket Civic League and Nantucket Chamber of Commerce Parking Meeting**

**May 16, 2017**

Participants: Mike Burns, Town Transportation Planner; Janet Schulte, Chamber of Commerce; Peter Morrison and Charlie Stott, Nantucket Civic League.

Charlie described the Civic League, its role in the community and the specific goal of identifying parking solutions around which a broad consensus may be built until the critical mass for effecting change is achieved.

Peter reviewed the results of the NCL parking survey and discussed a proposed WPI project he hopes to advance on moderating in-town traffic congestion using information technology.

Comments about this technology included:

- The Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission is recommending that the Board of Selectmen adopt the vehicle parking sticker program to expand NRTA service, which could help usher in eventual use of the technology at some point in the future
- Have the WPI students include an analysis of the sticker program in its study
- Concern that treating various classes of drivers differently could be illegal

Mike discussed financing the expansion of NRTA service through the adoption of the sticker program. A \$50 annual sticker would raise sufficient revenue to fund year-round service on the mid-island and Old South Road routes, based on a conservative estimate of 21,000 stickers sold.

Janet noted that congestion can spoil visitors' experience. She personally supports stickers and regards \$50 as cheap. The Chamber has no position on ways to mitigate the parking problem, but members could be surveyed. She suggested that we discuss parking problems with Nantucket Island Resorts. The Chamber will consider inviting Peter, who is available, to the Chamber's June 7, 2017 Board meeting.

Other comments included:

- Although demand for parking exceeds the supply of spaces in the summer, adding more spaces will not change behavior as paid parking would.
- We should highlight that revenue through parking sticker sales can and should fund expansion of bus service.
- Stickers can preserve Nantucket's character by avoiding meters, kiosks, and too many signs.
- The Civic League could survey its members more thoroughly, and use the Co-Presidents newsletter column to inform our constituents of the positive benefits of the parking sticker proposal.