



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Meeting of August 28, 2018, at 4:00 pm

In the Gallery of the Nantucket Atheneum

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Present: Peggy Altreuter, Barbara G. Cohen, Mary Ann Easley, Paul Kales, Peter Louderback, Jane Miller, Gail Norton, Lee Saperstein, Bill Sherman, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, John Wagley.

Guests: Peter Morrison, Nantucket Civic League co-President, and Kaitlyn Shaw, Town of Nantucket Water Quality Specialist.

I. Call to Order.

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

II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of July 24, 2018.

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting, July 24, 2018, was moved by Anne Terry, seconded by Mary Anne Easley, and approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Anne Terry reported (attached) a deposit of \$25.00 in dues payments, web-site expenses of \$40.00, with a new balance of \$4299.88. A motion to approve was made by Bill Sherman, seconded by Lee Saperstein, and approved unanimously.

IV. New Business.

Henry Terry reminded the group that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Town Association would be on Tuesday, September 25, and Tobias Glidden would make a presentation on renewable energy resources that are coming to Nantucket. After that, it is proposed to retire to a nearby restaurant for a social-hour retreat for which a head count will be needed. Please let us know if you intend to attend.

V. Old Business

None

VI. Guest Presentations, Peter Morrison and Kaitlyn Shaw.

Peter Morrison introduced Kaitlyn Shaw and said that their purpose was to alert as many Area Association Members as they could reach about the need to protect water quality in our harbors and great ponds. To this end, he would show an extract from John Stanton's video on "The Last Bay Scallop," which emphasizes the fragility of the harbor and its beds of eel grass that form the host environment for growing bay scallops. After the presentation, Kaitlyn Shaw would answer questions.

John Wagley was first and he asked about water-quality sampling results for this current year. The answer was that results will be coming in later this year for the entire summer. The delay comes from our need for sophisticated water sampling with threshold levels of detection that are an order of magnitude lower than for drinking-water standards. She said that we have healthy eel grass but we could still improve the beds. She would try to impart take-home items that reduce nitrogen output. She reported that, in part because of the rebuilt jetties, parts of the harbor have improved, mostly in the lower harbor, while the upper harbor is still declining. She emphasized that gardeners and landscapers should be using Nantucket-compliant fertilizer with low or no phosphorus in it. She recommended reading the EPA web site on a Safer Choice: www.epa.gov/saferchoice. Mary Ann Easley asked how we could provide this message to seasonal residents and Kaitlyn Shaw said that we are reaching out with educational materials including the recently released "Nantucket Blue Pages."

Bill Sherman asked who does the lab work and the reply was off-Island at UMass-Dartmouth where they have analytical equipment able to provide the needed very low level of detection. It would be nice to have an on-Island lab but detection levels mean expensive instruments. Bill Sherman also asked if the eelgrass can be restored. The answer was that we still have good beds of eel grass but, first, water quality has to be acceptable for these beds to spread.

Peter Morrison reported that artificial oyster beds have shown some success in improving water quality. Oysters filter water large volumes of water. He alluded to the possibility of a substantial gift that might fund an on-Island lab for all of the Island's water-quality assessments. John Wagley asked about fertilizer application enforcement and Lee Saperstein, former secretary of the fertilizer work group, explained that enforcement is happening.

Peter Morrison reminded the group that culture change may, in the long run, be more effective than enforcement. He also said that the Island is blessed with very capable people in the Natural Resources Department.

Henry Terry asked about commercial agricultural properties such as the Cranberry Bogs and private on-Island farms. Kaitlyn Shaw replied that we work with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation on the bogs' water quality.

VIII. Other Business and Comments.

None.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

The next Nantucket Town Association meeting will be on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, in the Learning Laboratory* of the Atheneum followed by a retreat at the Brotherhood (RSVP).

*Please remember that our use of the Learning Lab ends promptly at 5:00 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

July 24, 2018

Beginning Balance	\$4,289.88
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Deposits	+25.00
Dues	

Expenditures	0
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End balance	\$4,314.88
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Respectfully submitted,
Anne Terry