



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING

July 26, 2022, at 4:00 pm

Meeting held by Zoom conferencing

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance (Participants as noted by Zoom): Trish Bridier, Barbara Cohen, Mary Anne Easley, Marsha Fader, Mary Longacre, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Barbara von der Groeben.

Guests: Stephen Arceneaux, Director, Department of public Works, and Janet Forest, Atheneum.

Thanks to the Atheneum, Janet Forest, for hosting the meeting. which was recorded and the link to YouTube is included here: <https://youtu.be/u7YDfq9Co6E>.

I. Call the July 26, 2022, Nantucket Town Association Meeting to Order.

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. He announced that the meeting is being recorded and those who could not attend are welcome to use the above link to watch the recording. He also announced that, to avoid conflicts with the Open Meeting Law, there would be no discussion of the Nantucket Town small area plan because members of that working group are in attendance at today's meeting and no agenda for it has been posted.

II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of May 24, 2022.

Henry Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2022; Marsha Fader asked about the discussion on driving and parking on sidewalks. It was suggested that the minutes were accurate and included her request that this matter come before the Town Association in a future meeting. It was suggested that the same issue was discussed at the recent Town Area Plan, TAP, meeting and that Police Chief Pittman had sent a note explaining the rules for these actions, both of which are illegal in Massachusetts. Henry Terry asked Lee Saperstein to read that note, while suggesting that reading was for information and was not a discussion and was therefore acceptable at this meeting. Lee Saperstein read the following,

"Good Afternoon Lee,

Parking on the sidewalk and driving on a sidewalk are both illegal in Massachusetts. However, if the NPD was to enforce the letter of the law, there would be a significant reduction in available parking in Town. And some roads would simply be unusable for two way traffic. Gardner and India Streets are good examples. If all cars legally parked, nobody would be able to travel down India street so the logical end result would be a ban on parking on India St. Same with parts of Cliff Road. We did prohibit parking at the top of the hill on Cliff Road a few years back but the outcry from the residents was loud enough that the Select Board reversed itself on the idea within 30 days. The NPD is willing to do whatever the Select Board wants it to do. If they want us to address parking on the sidewalk, we would do it. But so far, I've not heard them express that desire. The parking regulations are enacted by the Select Board, not Town Meeting. While enforcement is generally at the discretion of the police department, we do accept guidance from the Select Board, especially on touchy politically charged issues such as these. Town Meeting really does not have a say in either of these issues.

**William J. Pittman, MPA
Chief of Police"**

Trish Bridier then moved approval of the minutes, Barbara von der Groeben seconded them, the vote to approve was unanimous.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Anne Terry, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report, attached. There were no additions or deductions so the balance of \$3818.50 was unchanged. A motion to approve was made by Trish Bridier, seconded by Mary Longacre, and approved unanimously.

IV. Guest Speaker.

Henry Terry introduced Stephen Arceneaux, Director, DPW, and said that Director Arceneaux would give his background as part of his presentation. Stephen Arceneaux related that he was raised in New Orleans, Louisiana; that he was particularly proud of his 21-year-old son, who had visited Nantucket recently after graduating from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University. Stephen Arceneaux had spent 21 years in the U. S. Army, rising from an enlisted soldier to an officer with the rank of Captain. His experience also includes six years in the private sector. He has served the Army both here and abroad in war zones, concentrating mainly in civil engineering projects, including electrical generation and distribution. The army had provided him with education and training in civil engineering for which he was most grateful because it focused him on something that he loves to do. He likes public works and he is very happy with his position in the Department. He acknowledged that he came to Nantucket as Deputy Director, became Interim Director with the resignation of his predecessor, and is now Director.

He acknowledged that there has been a major shift in dynamics since he joined the department: the COVID pandemic, shortages of affordable housing, and a substantial number of resignations, including most of the office staff, all of which caused major disruptions over the past two years. He stopped for a moment to rue the sudden death of long-time employee, Mark Voigt, because

he had arranged for a social moment with him that was canceled due to the death. Stephen Arceneaux said that this and other personnel experiences led to a philosophy where he hoped to lead a department that could act as family and that he expected to promote on potential rather than only on past activities. He noted that the disruption had stayed his ability to communicate and that he looked forward to stable times in which he could spend much more time on outreach such as today's meeting. At this point, he said that he knew that there were many questions and he hoped to be able to answer them.

Mary Longacre said that she had a question on solid waste disposal and recycling that came from a recent experience at the Waste Recycling Center, sometimes called the "dump", when she tried to throw away some old furniture. She was told to drive over the scales and was then charged a disposal fee. She wondered if the rules for disposal could be more completely listed on the DPW web site. Stephen Arceneaux replied that it seemed as if she was trying to dispose of a bulk item for which there was a legitimate charge. Yes, indeed, said Mary Longacre but because she was unable to lift it over the railing by the non-compostable waste skip, she was directed to the scales. Mary Anne Easley added that she had had the same problem recently and was there not an easier physical means of placing material into the skip? Stephen Arceneaux acknowledged that there was a communication problem that needed to be addressed.

He went on to say that Graeme Durovich was the Manager of Waste Recycling and that he was looking forward to filling at least one more position in the recycling section: a recycling manager. Mary Longacre said that she was told that she was disposing construction and demolition waste, for which there is a charge, but in reality, she was not. Lee Saperstein noted that some time ago there was a skip for wood but it had been removed, probably because of its mis-use. Stephen Arceneaux admitted that abuse of the facility was a problem but that it was not the responsibility of staff to enforce the rules. In fact, Waste Options personnel had been threatened. They do not have enforcement authority; only an honor system prevails.

Mary Longacre then asked about the refusal to accept gardening plastic containers because they were said to be dirty. Stephen Arceneaux acknowledged that there is an operational need to accept only clean plastic. Several people added that the gardening centers will take back old pots. Lee Saperstein suggested that a series of short videos on how best to dispose of materials properly might be useful. Stephen Arceneaux agreed and said that they were hoping to produce Public Service Announcements, PSAs, for the dump. Anne Terry added that our local social outlets, Nantucket Current and Nantucket Daybreak, would be a good place for them.

Stephen Arceneaux concluded this line of questioning by saying that there were too many vacant positions for operational stability and he is looking forward to filling them.

Lee Saperstein opened a new line of questions by asking about the status of the Lovers Lane project, in particular, and regular postings of road renewal schedules, in general. Stephen Arceneaux related that the bids for the approved Lovers Lane project came in well over the authorized funds available and that the Town was looking at modifying the project as well as seeking additional funding at the next Town Meeting. He, too, wants to publish a list of future road projects and said, though, that this requires careful coordination among a number of Town

offices, including Administration, Planning, Sewer, and Water.

Barbara Cohen said that she lives on Vestal Street, a narrow two-way road, near to its intersection with Winn Street and that it has not been re-paved in 20 years. How, she wanted to know, can she ask for its re-paving? The answer was in several parts. The Town's Road consultant has provided it with a prioritized, re-paving list of all Town public ways. Any abutter may submit a work-order request for re-paving. One of his priorities is to improve the work-order request system to ensure that any request is appropriately filed for good response and retrieval and for each requester to be given timely follow-up information. He told Lee Saperstein that New Street, where he lives, is on the list for re-paving.

Will Dell'Erba has been hired recently as a communications coordinator and as the contract representative to oversee Town contracts. It is another priority of the DPW to have an accurate list of street ownership: private versus public. Moreover, those private ways that connect two public ones may need Town supervision. There is no question that street issues can become political. His intent is to serve the community as best as possible and with the support of the Town Cabinet (all the department heads and the Town Manager).

Henry Terry said that it was approaching the time to adjourn. Stephen Arceneaux added that if there were further questions or issues, please send them to Henry Terry who will forward them directly to him.

V. Old Business.

Before calling for adjournment, Henry Terry asked if there were any items of old business; there were none.

VI. New Business.

Also, there were none.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm by motion from Barbara von der Groeben, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously.

***Next meeting is August 23, 2022, and will be via Zoom unless a decision to hold an in-person meeting is made; more information will be forthcoming with the next agenda; if one uses Zoom, registration is available at the following address:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrcOCsqj0iH9CoJJCY4FXOdz-tHfyynBrX>.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary, saperste@mst.edu.

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report July 26, 2022

Beginning Balance \$3,818.50

Deposits
None

Expenditures
None

End Balance \$3,818.50