



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION JULY MONTHLY MEETING

July 28, 2026, at 4:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting Also Available by Zoom

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Peggy Altreuter, Trish Bridier, Anne Dewez, Mary Anne Easley, Paula Gold, Mary Longacre (Zoom), Lee Saperstein, Bill Seay, Campbell Sutton, Charley Walters.

Guest: Deborah Dubois, President, The Warming Place.

The Zoom link for remote attendance is, as always, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87455121153>.

1. Call to Order.

Mary Anne Easley, President, started the meeting at 4:01 pm; she announced that the meeting was being recorded and is available at <https://youtu.be/HCN9limcRz4>.

Approval of the June 23, 2026, minutes.

Mary Anne Easley called for a motion of approval for the minutes of June 23, 2026, which was made by Trish Bridier, seconded by Campbell Sutton, and approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report.

Mary Longacre gave the Treasurer's report, saying that there had been no activity, but that she did have a correction to last month's report. The Post Office renewal payment was for \$258.00, not \$185.00, therefore the correct balance is \$2612.90. A motion to approve the report was made by Trish Bridier, seconded by Anne Dewez, and approved unanimously.

3. New Business. Guest Speaker: Deborah Dubois, President, The Warming Place.

After a kind introduction by Mary Anne Easley, Deb Dubois, President of The Warming Place, spoke about the Warming Place (<https://thewarmingplace.org/>) and its role in assisting the unhoused of Nantucket in finding a safe and warm place in which to sleep during the winter months.

It also assists with meals and food purchases throughout the year. Its web site provides a helpful summary that supports her talk.

She said that accurate estimates of the homeless numbers on Nantucket are difficult to obtain. They may sleep in cars, in public places during the warmer months, or camped in such places as the State Forest. They do not count “couch sleepers”, i.e., those sleeping in a friend’s or relative’s dwelling, as homeless. Their latest estimate is that 50 to 100 people, mostly, but not entirely, men, have used the Warming Place. The shelter is relatively new, having begun in 2021 with the strong support of Linda Simmons, the then pastor at the Unitarian Church.

The winter schedule is from November 1st to April 30th, when beds are provided seven days a week: three nights at the Summer Street Church and four at the Congregational Church on Center Street. They fund two overnight staff members to assign sleeping arrangements and to maintain order. Winter hours are from 7:30 pm to 7:30 am; there are no daytime hours. Staff are supported by 40 volunteers who help to set up and disassemble sleeping furniture – mainly cots – and to arrange for meals and supporting elements.

A great deal of additional support is available to those who ask for it. This includes fifty-dollar food cards, a laundry card, and the supported use of an Uber car between 6:00 and 10:00 pm. Their paid manager operates also as a case manager for anyone using their facilities. Their goal is to refer un-housed people to mental-health experts and agencies with a long-term goal of having their clients returning to employment and independence. Their web site has telephone and internet contact links and they hand outreach cards to those whom they find sleeping in cars. The overnight shelter can house up to 20 people; last year they provided 1235 nights of shelter and 2670 meals. They are supported by volunteers and they would welcome more. They are seeking to hire a development manager for fundraising.

At this point, there were questions and, also, comments of appreciation and support for their mission. Mary Anne Easley asked if the Warming Place provided medical support to which the answer was no. People in need of medical care were referred to the Urgent-Care center or the Emergency Department of the hospital. Anne Dewez asked about Nantucket’s connection to a similar organization on Martha’s Vineyard and was told that they are reaching out. Bill Seay asked about staff training and was told that there is a formal program for that.

Answering a question about fundraising and donations, Deb Dubois said that their budget was about \$400,000 per year and, yes, they welcome donations. She said, also, that there is a wish list on Amazon for needed supplies; a donor should search their web site under the rubric of “Warming Place” to access this list.

6. Adjournment.

As the meeting drifted to some Nantucket topics, Mary Anne Easley asked for a motion for adjournment. Several people responded; all agreed; and the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

Lee Saperstein, Secretary, 30 July 2026.