



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING

May 23, 2023, at 4:00 pm

Meeting held in the Learning Lab of the Atheneum and by Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Attendance in the Atheneum: Trish Bridier, Mary Anne Easley, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry.

Attendance by Zoom: Doris Hanna, Mary Longacre, Gail Norton, Barbara von der Groeben, Bill Seay, Charley Walters, and Paula Williams.

Guest: Michael Cranson, Chief, Nantucket Fire Department.

Thanks to the Atheneum, Samantha Aguiar, for hosting the meeting. which was recorded and the link to the video is included here: https://youtu.be/EWJIp6X_yKo.

I. Call the May 23, 2023, 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 April 25, 2023.

Henry Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2023; Anne Terry moved their approval, Mary Anne Easley seconded them, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Mary Longacre, Treasurer, reported that the starting balance of \$4,043.39 was increased by \$40.00 in dues payments, giving a current balance of \$4,083.39. She reported also that Alexandra LaPaglia, who provides web services for the Association, asked for repayment of \$219.04 to Wix.com who provide support for the Association's website and for PayPal services.

Lee Saperstein moved approval of the Treasurer's report and added that the motion included continuing approval of authorization to the Treasurer to pay recurring routine bills. Trish Bridier seconded the motion and approval was unanimous. Henry Terry added that Mary Longacre is seeking a method to pay these bills direct and asked her to explain. She said that Alexandra LaPaglia is paying this recurring bill from her personal credit card and then asking for reimbursement. She hoped that the Association could pay them direct instead. Upon consultation with Wix.com and Cape Cod Five, the Associations' bank, Mary Longacre recommends that the Association apply to the bank for a debit card. Lee Saperstein moved approval of the request to obtain a Cape Cod Five debit card, Mary Anne Easley seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. Guest Speaker, Michael Cranson, Chief, Nantucket Fire Department.

Before introducing Chief Cranson, Henry Terry asked if there was any objection to re-ordering the agenda so that our guest could speak first. Seeing none, he proceeded to introduce the Chief.

Michael Cranson thanked the Association for having him to speak. Significantly, he was pleased to be on Nantucket, which he has found to be a very welcoming community. He arrived on the Island a few weeks before his official start date of October 1, 2022, and has been busy learning about Nantucket and its fire department ever since. He was originally from Newport, Rhode Island, which is similar to Nantucket in having a rich history and a strong presence on the water. He went away to college when he was 18 where his interest in fire fighting led him to train and qualify for being an Emergency Medical Technician, EMT. He left college and became a full-time firefighter at the age of 19. He did, though, eventually finish college while working as a firefighter. He was with the Portsmouth, RI, fire department for 19 years, rising to be its chief in 2012. He retired from that department in 2018.

He admitted that retirement did not agree with him and so became a volunteer EMT on an ambulance. Eventually, he recognized that he preferred to be working and applied for the job on Nantucket and is extremely grateful to have been chosen. He and his wife have seven children, the youngest of whom is 20.

Turning to the Fire Department, he said how he pleased he is to find how very expert and professional it is. The departmental positions include seven firefighters on each of four shifts, plus two Fire Protection Officers, plus five administrative support staff, plus Chief and Deputy Chief, for a total of 37 people. He praised the Deputy Fire Chief who, he said, has been invaluable to him. Many of the active fire fighters in the department were raised on Nantucket and recognize the Town and its residents' special needs. He also noted that he quickly realized that Nantucket is an island and that this isolation meant that the department had to prepare for emergencies without the ability to ask for help from neighboring towns. This is of concern even for things like maintenance and repair of the equipment, which, if it cannot be fixed locally, must go off-Island for repair. That, then, introduces the coupled need to get ferry reservation for equipment and often with little lead time.

He anticipates a busy summer and expects that the department's four advanced ambulances will be busy. While all active departmental staff are EMTs, there are only four who have progressed

through advanced training to become a paramedic. Three more have been trained and are awaiting State certification. His goal is to have a paramedic on every shift. He admitted that if an emergency patient needs advanced care in the ambulance, he has occasionally had to call one of the paramedics back onto duty. The department works well with Boston Med Flight, the helicopter service.

He then went on to say that the recent Annual Town Meeting showed him how much Nantucket values its fire department because warrant articles provided for new equipment including a new engine (LWS: Article 10) as well as increased staffing (Article 8). Returning to the issue of equipment maintenance, he praised the DPW for the help that they provide. Nantucket's salt air and many miles of unpaved roads can be hard on equipment and that means that maintenance costs are higher than would be expected on the mainland. Cooperatively with airport management, they have developed a request for bid for another repair vendor. At this point, he asked if there were questions.

Mary Anne Easley began by asking about hydrants. She knew that many hydrants had been replaced by the Water Company in recent years and now wondered about reports of inadequate flow in the older ones. Michael Cranson said that he is working closely with Mark Willett, Director of the Wannacomet Water Company to review hydrant status. He knows that there are some that have insufficient flow volume and need to be replaced. Asked about the fire at West York Lane, he said that, disappointedly, the hydrant was not working but that the department had worked swiftly to contain the fire. Each engine has 1000 gallons of water in a tank and that two engines responded to that fire. At a 150 gallons per minute, this gives six and 2/3rd minutes per engine. Before they ran out of water from the engines, the fire crew had connected hoses to an operating hydrant and filled their portable pool from which water could be pumped onto the fire. With respect to private swimming pools, Lee Saperstein asked if they had a directory of pools in areas without hydrants that might be used in an emergency? He was reminded of a devastating fire some years ago in Tom Nevers that might have been put out if they had water. There has been another recently on Eel Point Road. Michael Cranson replied two ways. The first was that pools were on private property and they had no assured way of knowing if they had water in them or if they were even still in use. Yes, in a dire emergency a private pool and private hydrants might be a water resource. The engines are capable of drawing water from a pool, a pond, and even the Harbor. Better, though, was to identify the fire's location and send a tanker instead of a second engine so that there would be enough water.

Mary Longacre asked about staff vacancies and the use of overtime. Michael Cranson said that the department was down five positions when he joined but that these were now filled. There will be a delay, though, while each of the newly hired firefighters goes through mandatory training, first on-Island and then at the State's Fire Academy, and certification, all of which can take up to five months. The new funding provides for four more positions. They have applied also for a grant from the Department of Homeland Security for three-year funding for yet four more. He expects overtime costs to fall.

Mary Anne Easley commented on the Generation Safe program, how important it is, and how much she hopes that the department will continue to support it. Michael Cranson replied that it was indeed important and is supported by the fire protection officers. Lee Saperstein asked

about several issues. The first was per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, PFAS, particularly in firefighters' call-out gear. The chemical improves fire resistance in the gear but has been said to cause disease. The reply was that the Town had purchased new outer gear that is PFAS free. The inner gear has some level of PFAS and replacements are not free either. As soon as there is PFAS-free gear, it will be purchased. Lee Saperstein asked about battery fires and Michael Cranson gave a thorough summary of the department's approach. The first is to continue to publicize safe methods for charging smaller batteries that go on bicycles and scooters. The second was to outfit each of the department's engines with an under-car device that can penetrate a burning car battery and insert extinguishment. They will be looking at developing advice to home owners who wish to buy a household-sized battery and also at ways to fight a fire in one of them.

With no further questions, Henry Terry and all attending thanked Michael Cranson for sharing with the Association. Henry Terry then returned to the agenda.

V. Old Business.

None.

VI. New Business.

None.

VII. Adjournment.

Movement to adjourn was made by Trish Bridier, seconded by Mary Anne Easley, and approved unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.

***Next meeting is June 27, 2023, and will be hybrid with an in-person meeting in the Atheneum and a virtual one via Zoom; if one uses Zoom, the address is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87455121153>.**

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

Nantucket Town Association, May 23, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

Available Balance at last report:	\$4,043.39 on 4/25/23
Dues Received	\$0.00 through Paypal \$40.00 checks

Total Income	\$40.00
Expenses:	\$0.00
Paypal Fees:	\$0.00

Balance as of 05/23/23:	\$4,083.39

2022 had 48 paid memberships
2023 has 42 paid memberships so far, including some new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Longacre, NTA Treasurer