



## NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING

August 26, 2025, at 4:00 pm

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

### FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Trish Bridier, Gene Briskman, Anne Dewez, Mary Anne Easley, Paula Gold, Doris Hanna, Mary Longacre, Hillary Rayport, Lee Saperstein, Bill Seay, Nancy Serafin (Re-Bloom) and Charley Walters.

The Zoom link was <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87455121153>.

Guests: Meg Browsers, Director. Nourish Nantucket.

**1. Call to Order.** Mary Longacre, Interim President, started the meeting at 4:02 pm. She announced that the meeting was being recorded and is available at <https://youtu.be/ASKPnsDPTzo>.

**2. Approval of the July 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes of the Town Association.** Mary Longacre asked for approval of the July 29, 2025, minutes of the Nantucket Town Association and Trish Bridier so moved, Mary Anne Easley seconded, and they were approved unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report.** Mary Longacre said that there had been no changes in the Association's fund balance, which remains at \$3405.10. The report was accepted by acclamation.

**4. Old Business.** Mary Longacre said that there were several items of old business to cover.

**A.** As mentioned at the last meeting, there is a substantial balance in the Nantucket Town Association's investment fund at the Community Foundation for Nantucket ([www.cfnan.org](http://www.cfnan.org)) of approximately \$40,000. Asked why this has not been discussed in regular meetings, Mary Longacre replied that fund reports went directly to the President and it was that person's option to include or not in the agenda. Asked, also, about the size of the balance, she said that the original donation was for around \$2,500.00 and compound interest did the rest. Charley Walters said that it was his recollection that the original contribution was made by his predecessor, Jane Miller or, even hers, Peter Louderback. Mary Longacre committed to discussing the fund and its potential uses in the September meeting.

**B.** As written in the agenda, there is a call for candidates for election to the Officers (7 seats) and Board of Directors (9 at-large seats) of the Town Association. The current roster is available at <https://www.nantuckettownassociation.org/board-of-directors>. All positions are open; however, there will not be an incumbent for the President or the two vice-president positions, so we need volunteers willing to serve in these roles. Please email your interest to [nantuckettownassociation@gmail.com](mailto:nantuckettownassociation@gmail.com).

**C.** To make the call for volunteers to serve as officers work, we need a membership drive. we're asking every current member to sign up two new members. Anyone living on Nantucket year-round or seasonally (who is not in an area covered by another neighborhood Civic Association) is eligible to join the Town Association, but particularly those living within 1.5 miles of the Pacific National Bank on Main Street. If you are on our mailing list but not a dues-paying member, please consider upgrading.

#### **5. A. New Business: Postpone Annual Meeting.**

Mary Longacre recommended that we not hold an election at our next meeting and asked for a motion to postpone the NTA Annual Meeting and election of Officers and Directors from Tuesday, September 23rd to Tuesday, November 25th (4 pm at the Atheneum and on Zoom) to allow time for the membership drive and recruitment of candidates noted above. Current Officers will continue to serve until new Officers are elected. Charley Walters made the motion, Trish Bridier seconded it, and approval was unanimous.

#### **5. B. New Business: Guest Speaker, Meg Browsers, Director, Nourish Nantucket.**

In introducing Meg Browsers, Director, Nourish Nantucket, Mary Longacre reminded attendees that Nourish Nantucket, formerly the Nantucket Resource Partnership, was recently profiled in N Magazine: <https://www.n-magazine.com/introducing-nourish-nantucket>. Brooke Mohr, the organization's President, also spoke to us last July and the recording is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOZBNtiVJ7k>. Nourish Nantucket has its own web site, [www.NourishNantucket.org](http://www.NourishNantucket.org) and can be reached at (508) 901-9201 or [info@nourishnantucket.org](mailto:info@nourishnantucket.org).

Meg Browsers explained that Nourish Nantucket is an umbrella organization that supports individual food programs such as the Food Pantry, The Warming Place, Meals on Wheels, SNAP (Food Stamps), WIC, etc. They have 12 formal partners, each of which deals one way or another in food insecurity; they form ten percent of the 120 non-profit organizations on Nantucket. Nantucket is an expensive place, particularly for securing housing. Once rent or mortgage is paid, many households have insufficient funds for food. Data suggest that 46 percent of children in Nantucket schools are eligible for free lunch and breakfast programs. Twenty-one percent of year-round residents struggle with food insecurity. Of those, two-thirds are unsure of how to access food programs.

On a recurring and regular basis, Nourish Nantucket wants to be the key site to access food programs. Those in need of food can access Nourish and be directed to a program that best suits their needs; contact information is shared and, if needed, programs may reach out to those

needing food. Additionally, a singular and very pressing need is to find a new and permanent home for the Nantucket Food Pantry. They must leave their present location on Washington Street by early next year. A desirable replacement would be large enough to store perishable foods, be open most days, would provide parking, and could afford privacy to those who visit it. Nourish Nantucket is leading the search for this space and for funds with which to acquire it. A similar program on Martha's Vineyard provides guidance on what Nantucket should do.

She said that there are seven national and local news articles that tell the story of food insecurity on Nantucket and they should be read, <https://nourishnantucket.org/publications/>. Attendees were extremely interested in her presentation and posed many questions as well as offering suggestions on how to find more food. The story was told of the high school student who suggested that food left in rentals and gleaned by the cleaners could be contributed to the food pantry. Another person thought that excess garden produce could be harvested and donated also. Left-over restaurant food was mentioned by Doris Hanna and brought a detailed response from Meg Browsers. Identification of people in need of food assistance was another big topic, particularly of those wary of drawing attention to themselves. Nourish Nantucket is very aware of the need to reach out to people and communities in need.

In summary, Nantucket desperately needs a new home for the food pantry. Nourish Nantucket welcomes financial donations and also offers of volunteer help. Attendees applauded Meg Browsers's presentation before adjourning.

**6. Adjournment.** The motion to adjourn was made by acclamation. Adjournment was at 5:02 pm.

**Next Meeting is September 23, 2025, and will be held in person in the Library and by Zoom at the address at the top of these minutes. An agenda will be forthcoming.**