



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

October Meeting of Members

October 22, 2019, at 4:00 pm

In the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Present: Mary Anne Easley, Marsha Fader, Cindy Garrison, Richard Loftin, Colleen McLaughlin, Jane Miller, Lee Saperstein, Bill Seay, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Charley Walters

Guest: Rob McNeil, Director, DPW

I. Call to Order.

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm in the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum.

II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of September 24, 2019.

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting, September 24, 2019, was moved by Anne Terry, seconded by Colleen McLaughlin, and approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Anne Terry reported (attached) receipt of dues in the amount of \$125.00, internet expenses of \$170.00, and a new balance of \$4,350.20. A motion to approve was made by Colleen McLaughlin, seconded by Mary Anne Easley, and approved unanimously.

IV. New Business

None

V. Old Business.

Henry Terry explained that the Town is undertaking a revision of its Master Plan, which is required every five years. He asked Lee Saperstein to describe relevant planning events; they

were a presentation to the Nantucket Civic League Presidents' Breakfast by Andrew Vorce, Director of Planning, and Judith Wegner, Chair, Planning Board, and a second presentation to the NCL Executive Committee by Judith Wegner and Nat Lowell, Chair, Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission (NPEDC).. The Plan, which can be found on the Planning Board's web site page or, directly, at <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1281/Town-of-Nantucket-Master-Plan?bidId=>, has eight major topics incorporated in separate chapters plus a chapter on implementation. The eight areas are critical to Nantucket's development.

Planners have encouraged local areas to define their developmental needs in area plans and six areas have done so: Brant Point, Miacomet, Mid-Island, Naushop Crossing, 'Sconset, and Tom Nevers. He felt that the Town Area was so heterogeneous that it was best defined by the entire Master Plan but that this was something that could be discussed in a later meeting when the planners would be present. He ended by saying that the Planning Board and the NPEDC encourage local areas to also revise their plans or, if desired, to create a new one. The Nantucket Civic League Executive Committee has recruited six people to assist and advise the planners as they work through the revision: Rick Atherton, Mary Fontaine, Ken Gentner, Carol Langer, Polly Miller and Allen Reinhard.

VI. Guest Speaker: Rob McNeil, Director, DPW

Rob McNeil began his presentation by saying that he has been in his position as Director for 2 ½ years although based on what the Department has accomplished and is currently undertaking he feels sometimes that it has been a lot longer. He has prepared a list of a few things to discuss and hopes that questions will direct the remainder of the presentation. He admitted that there is so much going on in his department that it can be overwhelming to cover in such a short presentation.

He began with sidewalks, saying that they were an on-going project. The original plan was to rebuild worn and dangerous sidewalks from the waterfront outward because, with ferry passengers and their luggage, that was the place of the most foot traffic. Upper Main Street was seen to have some safety concerns and was taken out of order. The residents there had some concerns about historical restoration and asked if they could help with planning for re-building that section of Main Street. The *ad hoc* advisory group continues to meet. This fall, the reconstruction project will go back to Straight Wharf by BYBBQ to continue work on routes from the waterfront. Also, Washington Street between Salem and Coffin will be included in this fall's work project. The Coffin Street intersection will get an ADA-compliant handicap ramp. This section of Washington Street will meet the section from the Town Pier parking lot to Coffin Street that was rebuilt last year because of heavy foot traffic along it and its "dire" condition. Concrete curbing will be replaced with granite. This will be new granite because there is no older granite curbing available on that section. Wherever possible the DPW will re-use existing stone to keep the historic look. DPW now specifies split face and split tops for new granite installations within the Historic Core District. The section of Washington Street in front of the American Legion Hall will see the replacement of the concrete sidewalk with brick and, equally, concrete curbs will be replaced with stone. The cross walk across Washington will also have compliant handicap ramps. The DPW is working with Force 5, the shop, to trim their privet hedges so as to reduce encroachment and maintain a safe width on their sidewalks. The Salem Street side of the cross-walk will also have a handicap ramp.

Also coming out of order will be work on Judith Chase Lane. When, several years ago, the streets between Fair and Pine Streets were repaved, Judith Chase Lane was not because the rutted surface was an

obstruction to the milling machine. Recently, they found a sidewalk hidden by overgrowth and old paving. The plan is to reconstruct the sidewalk, reset existing and new curbs, and reconstruct the street.

They have learned, as these repair projects continue, to be sensitive to the impact on abutting businesses. They are trying to keep them well apprised of repair schedules and to avoid working on busy shopping days.

Shifting to another subject of interest, he said that they have begun to remove tree stumps that have been present for “far too long.” In a recent survey the DPW found 20 or more stumps; they began today to grind them out. This will allow for reconstruction of the brick sidewalks and possible replanting. He allowed as how weather delays have delayed all manner of projects. There are a number of contractors that have not been able to get here in a timely fashion because of weather-based cancellations of ferries. As a prime example, line painting that should have started in the spring is only now underway.

He then moved to discuss playgrounds and recreational areas. This year, we removed unsafe equipment from playgrounds at Tom Nevers and Jetties Beach. Consequently, we were pleased that the Land Bank opened its big new playground and that, in addition, a donor provided temporary play equipment for Jetties and the Town provided temporary play equipment for Tom Nevers. In the Town Parks and Recreation Master Planning efforts, they are looking closely at parks as well as playgrounds. DPW has conducted many public information sessions to seek feedback and input from residents, visitors, and users of these precious assets. While Tom Nevers is a critical need, the Delta fields have an expected commitment to locate all baseball and softball facilities there, and, equally, the Nobadeer Fields, on Nobadeer Farm Road, need to be built out with the addition of a fourth rectangular playing field. Also, DPW is working to bring Nobadeer a badly needed field house. The Nobadeer fields are currently used beyond their recommended capacity and need to be renewed and expanded. Provisional plans and an invitation to submit advice are available on the Town’s web pages, <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25101/Parks--Recreation-Master-Plan-Presentation---June-2019> .

Once the critical work is finished, Tom Nevers will then get its rebuilding treatment with passive recreation on the ocean side of the park and active recreational playing fields on the landside., The bunker may be considered for renovation and re-use. The proposed plan for Tom Nevers will have other sports such as soccer and lacrosse as well as tennis. There may be a separate basketball court or one installed in conjunction with parking lots, along with a brand new playground!

Coming closer to Town, they intend to maintain decorative street lamps on a regular, monthly basis; they have ordered \$50k of replacement lamp fixtures and fittings. Along with maintaining and replacing our decorative streetlamps, DPW is committed to piloting modern LED fixture technology. Because the LED lamps may have different color temperatures, DPW will be testing these at very limited locations first, soliciting feedback, and then making further decisions. They will be happy to have feedback on color and brightness. Because of dual responsibilities, the Town is responsible for the fixtures and National Grid is responsible for power, fuses, and bulbs, they are working more collaboratively with National Grid; to keep the lamps lit while being sensitive to the wonderful night sky here on Nantucket.

Bike racks and a proposed bike-parking plaza were next in his presentation. The plaza will go between Town Building, 16 Broad Street, and the Sheriff’s Office at 20 South Water Street, essentially behind the War Memorial. DPW is removing an old underground heating fuel storage tank and replacing it with three separate above-ground tanks that will give room for the plaza. They have been looking for a bike-rack design that is unobtrusive, effective, and weather resistant. They are trying a shaped metal pipe that is an inverted ‘U’. They have sought an HDC opinion on it and it was favorable. Once again, they will be happy to receive feedback. Marsha Fader asked about bollards fitted with circles. They are smaller and will be used in tighter spaces was the response. They are also minimally intrusive and have been

shared with the HDC. Marsha Fader said that older racks in which wheels can be slid are not secure. Rob McNeil agreed and said that the wooden ones of that style did not last in Nantucket's weather. The DPW has relied on Transportation Planner, Mike Burns, for advice on need, function, and location of bike racks.

In his last item, he said that he was very concerned for timely maintenance of the Town's facilities. Neglect and deferred maintenance has taken their toll and it is time to create a comprehensive facilities Division within DPW; to develop and follow a facilities master plan to work toward maintaining them to the highest level. A Facilities Master Plan is a new item supported under the Select Board's Strategic Plan. <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22924/Town-of-Nantucket-Strategic-Planning?bidId=>

The Facilities Master Plan will incorporate a soon to be published and updated ADA Transition Plan to chart a course for bringing each facility up to compliance with ADA. Facilities include conference and meeting spaces, which are heavily used and, except for the two public rooms in 4 Fairgrounds Road, many of them need to be reconditioned. An example of underutilized municipal space that is planned for reuse includes offices and a conference room in 20 South Water Street so that it can be used as a temporary office location while other spaces are renovated.

At this time, he asked if there were any questions and Marsha Fader asked if there was an update on sewer mapping and photographing. Rob McNeil replied that the Sewer Director, David Gray, is the point person on all sewer issues but that Water, Sewer, and DPW work together on combined utility and road projects. The Town has hired a CCTV contractor to do a condition assessment of the pipes. Anomalous conditions are scored so that a repair/rebuild program can be created logically. The Children's Beach storm-water drain outfall, which was ill-conceived, is an example of a high-scoring problem and is the number one priority for replacement. The Easy Street bulkhead drainage system and discharge is targeted for analysis next.

Mention of water reminded him that water-filling stations that are acceptable historically and resistant to vandalism are being installed around town. They will help the Town's residents to comply with the 2020 ban on single-use plastics.

At this point, Henry Terry indicated that we had run out of time and we needed to leave the building as it was closing.

VIII. Other Business and Comments.

None was offered..

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

•Next Meeting is November 19th in the Learning Lab.

*Please remember that our use of the Learning Lab ends promptly at 5 p.m. We need to leave the Atheneum at 5:00 pm so that staff can lock the building.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary,

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

Oct 22, 2019

Beginning Balance \$4,395.20

Deposits

Dues +125

Expenditures

Alex LaPaglia

-Website update and
maintenance

-170

End Balance \$4,350.20

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Terry