

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - NO. 1, 1979

P. O. BOX 181 • NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS 02554

WE ARE INVOLVED. . .

We are involved in many things that affect the quality of life in the town of Nantucket. What do we do? The Board of Directors, representing almost 500 members, attempts to scan the total environment to detect problems that should be solved and to nurture programs that will enhance our future well-being. We don't always come up with ideal solutions but at least we bring to light some of the things the community should know about.

For example, for several years the Town Association has had a committee at work on "Operation Eyesore." This was an effort to eradicate the unsightly blotches of junk and debris that downgrade the visual beauty of the island. Together with the Civic League, the parent organization of all of Nantucket's regional associations, we are facing up to the problem of vandalism.

The Town Association has sponsored a program for the beautification of Main street, one of our assets that cannot be allowed to become tarnished. We have vigorously supported the Fishing Industry Redevelopment Project that recently received a \$14,000 grant from Coastal Zone Management for a feasibility study. More details on all the above appear on pages two and three.

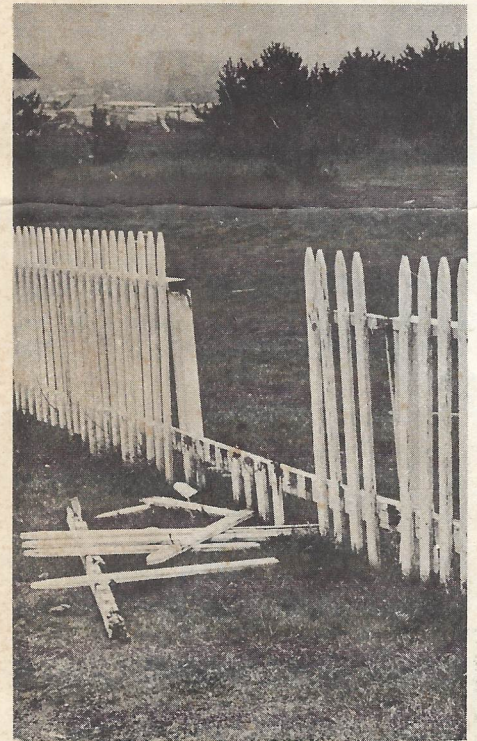
Again working under the aegis of the Civic League, the Town Association made a study of Nantucket's By-laws and discovered there is no codified collection of all the By-laws indicating that they have been approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General and duly published as required by law. As a result of this study, the Selectmen have agreed to place an article in the Town Warrant requesting funds to compile and up-date the By-laws.

We represented our membership at

the Public Hearing of the Special Legislation Committee of the Steamship Authority and added our voice to those calling for "alternate ports" legislation and for additional representation on the Board of the Authority.

We have given our whole-hearted support to the Teen Center. We have explored vehicular traffic strangulation with the Planning and Economic Development Commission and the low-flying aircraft problems with the Airport Commission. Presently, we are studying the unreasonable discrepancy between island prices and mainland prices for such retail items as food and gasoline. It appears that because we live on an island we are being victimized. But the Town Association intends to find out why and by whom.

Following the grounding of the British tanker Afghanistan, the NTA wrote Congressman Gerry Studds emphasizing the perennial hazard of oil spills to the island and requesting his views as to how such potential catastrophes might be averted.



How long is Nantucket going to put up with this? The Town Association is committed to the Civic League's effort to assist all appropriate authorities in the control of vandalism and burglary.

H. Flint Ranney photo

Can You Find The Red "X"?

This newsletter is being mailed to all our current members and also to all members who joined in past years but have not currently paid this years dues. Many who have never been a part of our association will also be receiving this newsletter.

It is our hope that after reading it and learning of our interest in and concern for Nantucket as we all love it that you will want to join in and be among the almost 500 members who make up our area association.

For your convenience a membership blank has been provided on page 4. We hope you will care enough to fill it in and mail it together with your check for \$4 for each family member. Our 1978-79 year will expire on July 31, 1979.

In case any of you are in doubt as to whether your membership is current or not we have placed a small red "X" in the lower left hand corner of the mailing label of all paid-up members.

REPORT ON FISHERIES STUDY PROJECT

In the past 18 months, a number of individuals interested in the expansion of the local fishing industry as an alternative to the present building industry, have been pursuing funding for a study of the local waterfront facilities.

The group, through a series of meetings, was able to obtain a good deal of input from local fishermen and others with knowledge of the local fishing industry. Mr. Howard Nickerson also came down from New Bedford to assist in technical advice at two of the meetings. He is head of a Consulting firm that does feasibility studies and was extremely helpful in assisting the group in deciding how to go about funding a study.

Money from Coastal Zone Management was available for such a study with a number of stipulations attached. One major requirement was that the Town provide a percentage of the total cost.

To help in this, The Nantucket Land Council Defense Fund offered \$4,000 and the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission offered \$1,000 in in-kind services. Initially, \$20,000 in funding was sought. This



original request was turned down by CZM. However, The NEPDC was told that if a lower amount was sought, it was probable it would be awarded on the next round of grants.

Consequently, a revision of the size and scope of the study was done resulting in a lower anticipated cost. On the second application \$14,000 was sought with the additional \$4,000 from NLCDF and \$1,000 of in-kind services from NPEDC.

On January 2nd, CZM announced that it had awarded a grant of \$14,000 to fund the Nantucket Fishing Industry Redevelopment Project.

The Study seeks to determine both the feasibility and desirability of developing the local waterfront and harbor facilities for an expansion of commercial finfishing and shellfishing. The study will be made up of the following segments.

1. A thorough look into the island's present fishing industry and facilities.
2. A determination as to what is needed in the way of facilities and services to rejuvenate and expand the existing industry.
3. An attempt to get local opinion as to whether this is desirable by the townspeople and the fishermen.
4. A presentation of various alternatives including costs, funding, management and locations.

It is anticipated the study will take about 6 months and should be done by the end of July. The study will be done by the NPEDC and will rely heavily on local co-operation and input. Among other things there will be a mailing of a citizen attitude questionnaire. There will be some technical assistance from CZM with some involvement from a consulting firm.

Hopefully, most, if not all of the questions concerning the future of fishing, inshore and offshore, fin and shell, will be answered when the project is complete.

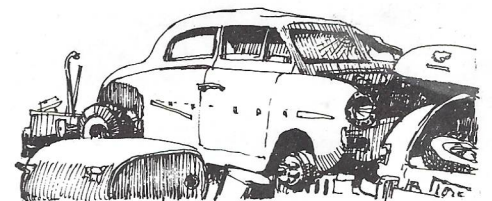
Robert Dennis, former Director

"Operation Eyesore"

The relentless efforts of NTA's committee on "operation eyesore" have produced significant achievements. First, a quasi-official committee consisting of Selectman Wally Knott, Executive Secretary Sam Thurber and Robert Metters, an NTA Director, was formed to further investigate the findings of the "operation eyesore" committee. Under Metters' leadership this group has now amassed a complete study of virtually all the objectionable situations in the town of Nantucket.

This body of evidence includes visual proof of the "eyesore" and its classification according to the type of nuisance involved. The committee then produced the State General Law and/or local By-Laws that each precise situation violates.

In addition, there is correspondence from the Town Association to the Board of Selectmen pointing out some of the flagrant violations on which the Board has taken no action thus far. However, the Committee has now established a prima facie case against each offender and it would appear difficult for the Selectmen to ignore their responsibility by failing to take positive action.



Come to NTA Meetings

In addition to the Annual Meeting, which all members are urged to attend, you are also most welcome to sit in on the meetings of the Directors which are held on the fourth Monday of each month in the Board room of the Pacific National Bank at 4:30 p.m.

President
Robert W. Carrick

Vice-President
John F. Meilbye

Treasurer
Benjamin S. Richmond

Secretary
Helen O. Smith

Clerk
William H. Hays III

Directors
Judith Bartsch
Hugh R. Chace
Joan Craig
James R. Dennis
Betty Ensign
Marjorie Fraker
Robert G. Metters
Francis W. Pease
David E. Webster

The Spectre Of Vandalism

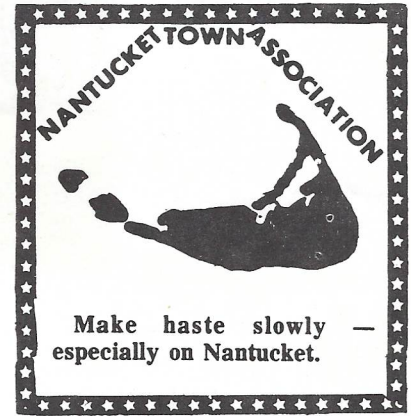


The Nantucket Town Association, in conjunction with the Civic League is looking for ways to support the police department in its effort to bring vandalism and breaking and entering under control.

We have met with Police Chief Hopfinger and gained an understanding of the problem which has its complexities. Increased manpower will help and we favor the article in the Town Warrent that requests four additional police officers.

However, the real solution of the problem can only be achieved through the cooperation of the community and this can be summed up in one word "responsibility." Parental responsibility for the conduct of their children, citizens' responsibility for quick and accurate reporting of acts of vandalism and the responsibility of witnesses to testify when the culprits are apprehended.

The Town Association is deeply concerned not only because of the wanton destruction of property but because the spectre of vandalism can actually damage the economy of the island. We will assist in every way possible to combat this public menace.



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

"More people produce more problems as well as profits."

"Does your property look attractive to your neighbors?"

"Cobblestones are cheaper than asphalt."

"Walking is good for you, and even better for our overcrowded streets."

What is the Town Association's awareness program?

According to Judy Bartsch, one of the enthusiastic backers of the program it is a series of short one or two liners appearing with the association's logo every week in the newspaper, eye-catching and provocative.

"We try to nudge readers into an awareness of the island's environmental problems, or problems connected with being a summer resort," Mrs. Bartsch said. These problems are of an indisputable, or uncontroversial nature, and usually hit home because they are so easily recognizable.

"The idea was Joan Craig's, and it was enthusiastically accepted by the board last spring," she said.

So if you have any pet problems, or can think of any solutions to some of the problems, and you can say it succinctly, send the copy along to Judy and then watch the Inquirer and Mirror to see your idea in print.

It's Your Street, Color It Bright

Beginning in 1976, the town of Nantucket began to prepare for the bicentennial celebration and the many tourists who would be visiting the island at that time.

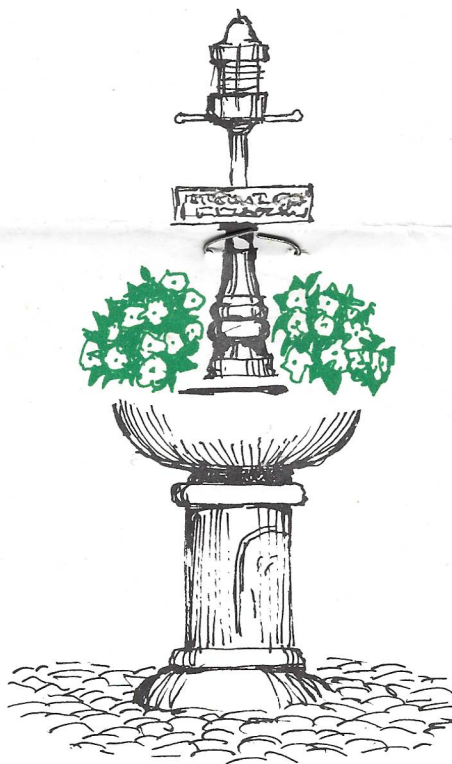
The event initiated great concern for the general appearance of the town and for Main Street in particular. It quickly became evident that the decline of a street is not always the result of willful neglect or indifference. Decline imperceptibly comes about because people just stop seeing what is happening on their street. This oversight results first in general shabbiness. When not checked, shabbiness becomes decay, decay squalor.

We can be greatfull nothing as serious as this has happened on Nantucket. All that was needed here was a nudge or two and the people living and working on Main Street responded. However, there are still many improvements to be made and we know we must guard against a visual laziness that dulls our perspective of what's happening around us.

In effect, all of us are custodians of Main Street. The way it looks accurately reflects the way we feel about our island, our town, our street and the people who live here.

If you have comments or suggestions, send them to NTA, Box 181, Nantucket Mass. 02554

Reggie Levine, former Director



Miss Nancy Chase
Cobble Court
Nantucket, Mass

x



A MEMBER ORGANIZATION
NANTUCKET CIVIC LEAGUE

NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS 02554

BOX 181

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Members Comments, Members Comments, Members Comments, Members Comments, Membe

"Can the Town Association do something about having signs posted to remind cyclists not to peddle on sidewalks?"

Mrs. J.S.

"There was a law passed several years ago that no hitch-hiking would be allowed within two miles of town. Now they hitch-hike starting at the corner of Main and Orange streets."

M.G.H.

"I would like to suggest a study of the possibility of placing collection bins at the Madaket dump for glass, bundled newspapers and perhaps aluminum-for recycling."

R.L.

"Keep up the Town Association ads at the top left of the I&M."

M/M K.S.B.

"We who live here year 'round would love to attend your meetings. But it is an impossibility the hours you hold your meetings."

K.L.

"We are deeply troubled over the congestion of people and cars in downtown Nantucket during the summer months. So much so that it becomes more and more tempting not even to come to the island in those months. Just rent our house and let the tenants fight the traffic."

M/M K.D.G.

YOU CAN JOIN !

Membership in the Nantucket Town Association is open to all resident voters and non-resident property owners who reside within a radius of one and one-half miles of the Pacific National Bank, except for the area represented by the Brant Point Association. In addition, resident voters and property owners who reside outside the designated area and are not eligible for membership in another neighborhood association, may become members of the Town Association.

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

(I, We) wish to become a member(s) of the Nantucket Town Association.

NAME _____

NAME _____

TOWN ADDRESS _____

Tel. _____

OFF-ISLAND ADDRESS _____

Please enclose a check in the amount of \$4.00 for each member for annual dues, payable to the NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 181, Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554