



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING

March 28, 2023, at 4:00 pm

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

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance in the Atheneum: Trish Bridier, Barbara G. Cohen, Mary Anne Easley, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, and Barbara von der Groeben.

Attendance by Zoom: Paula Gold, Doris Hanna, Gail Norton, Bill Seay, and Charley Walters.

Guest: David Gray, Director, Nantucket Sewer Department.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/B4evsKR9UmgDExQjykpURUKUtezDOBuaDcoJdQ7CO3Qn_gxPEGsXmJOWQcQgDKtc7KO43vIcSm2nLNJ7.utZ4-OQuO5PCxOqq

Passcode: bz3A+j0n

I. Call the February 28, 2023, Nantucket Town Association Annual 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 February 28, 2023.

Henry Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2023; Anne Terry moved approval of the minutes, Mary Anne Easley seconded them, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

III. Treasurer's Report.

On behalf of Mary Longacre, Treasurer, Lee Saperstein gave the Treasurer's report, attached.

He noted that this report includes dues payments of \$350.00, which brings the total membership to 38; last year there were 48 paid memberships. The beginning balance was \$3,654.37. Adding the dues payments and subtracting a PayPal fee of \$5.98, gave a current balance of \$3998.39. A motion to approve was made by Trish Bridier, seconded by Barbara von der Groeben, and approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business.

Henry Terry reminded members that at the previous meeting, Gail Walker of Nantucket Lights had asked for our support of her warrant article, number 76, amending the Town's Outdoor Lighting bylaw to bring it up to date and to make it more compliant with recommendations for the avoidance of light pollution. He asked if the Association was in favor of supporting the article as she had requested at the last meeting. Lee Saperstein said that he was and moved that Association send a written letter of support to the Select Board. Anne Terry seconded it and the vote was unanimously in favor. Mary Anne Easley noted that Nantucket Lights had provided a display at Marine Home Center that explained the article and contained brochures for customers.

V. New Business.

There was no new business.

VI. Guest Speaker, David Gray, Director, Nantucket Sewer Department.

Henry Terry introduced David Gray who said that he was sure that the Association wanted to know about the force main project that will occupy the Town for up to three years. The project is to install a new force main (one that is propelled by the pumps at the Sea Street pumping station) from Sea Street to the South Shore treatment plant. He was asked by Anne Terry if the project was on schedule to which he replied that they were a little behind but that this will not be a problem. Trish Bridier asked if the delay was from having to deal with intrusive tree roots. No, he said; it is mainly of old, unmapped gas mains and of unmapped emergency repairs made in the past where wires and pipes were pushed under street pavements to provide service after a disruption. Lee Saperstein asked if these repairs were being mapped and David Gray said that they are being located on GPS coordinates and then recorded.

As the work moved up from Sea Street, he told the contractor that they should schedule Step Lane before other streets because the Lane had been blocked by the fire at the Veranda House that had also disrupted utilities and they now had the opportunity to install the force main and repair all broken utility (water and sewer) inlets so that once the street was repaved it would not need to be opened again. Lee Saperstein recalled that Step Lane was once cobbled and asked if they found any under the asphalt pavement. Very few came the reply. Those that were found have been saved as have historic curbs and sidewalk paving stones. The Sewer Department has met many times with the Nantucket Historical Commission and has taken strong note of their concerns for maintenance of historical hardscaping. Where they have to lift old curbstones and sidewalk pavers, they have carefully marked and numbered them so that they will go back as they were. He did note later in the meeting that sidewalks and curbs may not be re-installed for as much as a year after the sewer is installed so as to allow the ground to settle and, thus, prevent

uneven subsidence of the repaired sidewalk. The Force Main will go up Liberty Street to Winter Street and then over Main toward Pleasant. Winter Street will be restored with cobblestone paving.

Trish Bridier asked if the work along South Shore was part of the same project and he said, yes, we are working in both directions. In addition to the force main, they are installing a separate dry, gravity drain on South Shore to serve the residences along it and its connecting streets. This led to a question by Mary Anne Easley about sufficiency of service in the event that the Surfside Crossing project is built. The new gravity drain is of a size calculated to accept the proposed volume and then some more. Stubs (piping for future connections) have been installed for every lot including that intended for Surfside Crossing.

Lee Saperstein asked, with respect to the force main, what will happen to the existing ones. The one that failed on January 5, 2018, has been inspected by internal, pipeline camera and all damaged sections repaired or replaced. It is not being used at the moment but exists as a back-up for the one that is in use, which was installed sometime in the 1980s and has never been inspected. Once flow is diverted to the new force main, it will be shut down, flushed, then inspected, and repaired where need be. The Town will have three force mains, one in use and two spares, once the project is complete.

Shifting topics slightly, David Gray said that the Sewer Department will be assuming responsibility for the system of storm drainage in the Town. In fact, warrant article 20, "Establish and Appropriate: Storm Water Enterprise Fund," will create a separate enterprise fund that will allow the Sewer Department to begin investigative work and, where necessary, repairs on the storm water sewer system. He noted that it was the original sewer system in the Town and did dump raw sewage into the Harbor. Storm water still goes into the Harbor. A contractor is already using remote cameras to inspect the storm-water piping and to note places that need to be repaired. Much of this work will be done at night and, it is hoped, will not be disruptive to traffic. He noted that there is a problem at the intersection of Orange Street and West Creek Road that is under investigation now. We should expect to see the large camera trucks around the Island as they do their investigations.

The new residential construction on the Island is decreasing lands able to accept precipitation for recharge into the groundwater system while increasing the share of storm water that goes into the drains. Also, where houses are being raised for compliance with FEMA recommendations for land subject to flooding, landscaping raises the ground around the new foundation and causes rainwater to run into the street instead of soaking into the ground. Lee Saperstein said that he understood that storm drains empty into the harbor and, he asked, is that preferred or should the water go to the treatment plant. That, replied David Gray, is a challenge for which he did not yet have an answer. He also said that the Sewer Department is working with the conservation groups on the Island (Nantucket Conservation Foundation and the Nantucket Island Land Bank) to convert ponds and wet lands to a dual purpose whereby they can serve as catch basins during a storm and then allow the stormwater to drain over time instead of flooding. His department is also inspecting catch basins and cleaning them of silt and sediment where needed. They are working now with the Land Bank on the Lily Pond to cure a flooding problem while increasing

its capacity as a catch basin. Mary Anne Easley asked if there is enough capacity in the storm drains and he replied that they should be okay.

With regard to capacity, Henry Terry asked about the Wastewater Treatment Plant, itself. David Gray replied that they have State permission to treat four million gallons per day (gpd). At the moment, the volume is around one million gpd. Last August, there were days with three million gpd. He is more worried about beach erosion eating into their leach field. They have lost 37 feet already.

Lee Saperstein noted that the Nantucket Wastewater Treatment Plant was a leader in using sewage as a forecaster of COVID infections. Yes, said David Gray. Initially, Biobot, the company doing the wastewater sampling said that they had all the towns that they needed to demonstrate their diagnostic ability; when they discovered that we are an island and that our plant covers the entire district, they were eager to include us. The data, which are inserted semi-weekly, are on the Town's web site (go to the Sewer Department's pages and select "Surfside Wastewater Treatment Facility:" <https://nantucket-ma.gov/1864/Surfside-Wastewater-Treatment-Facility-C>. It is a box in the upper-right corner of the screen.

In chatting about the sewer plant, he noted that paint is a real problem. When it reaches the sewer plant after being disposed (illegally, we might note) into a toilet, it can completely choke off the bacterial activity that digests sewage. Even latex paints, in a large enough concentration, can be toxic to the plant. Compliance, he said, will take everyone: home do-it-yourselfers, builders, contract painters, and the like. He closed his talk with an open invitation to visit the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Henry Terry thanked David Gray as did the members present and then said that it appeared to be time to adjourn.

VII. Adjournment.

Movement to adjourn was made by Trish Bridier, seconded by Anne Terry and approved unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

***Next meeting is April 25, 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, March 28, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cape Cod 5 Bank Balance at last report:	\$ 4,154.37	on 1/24/23 (as reported)
	- 500.00	uncleared Atheneum check
Available Balance at last report:	\$ 3,654.37	on 1/24/23 (as corrected)
Dues Received	\$ 95.00	through Paypal
	\$ 255.00	checks

Total Income	\$ 350.00	
Expenses:	0	
Paypal Fees:	\$ -5.98	

Balance as of 03/28/23:	\$ 3,998.39	

2022 had 48 paid memberships
2023 has 38 paid memberships so far, including some new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Longacre, NTA Treasurer