



## **NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING**

June 28, 2022, at 4:00 pm

Meeting held by Zoom conferencing

### **DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Attendance (Participants as noted by Zoom): Trish Bridier, Anne Dewez, Mary Anne Easley, Marsha Fader, Mary Longacre, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Charley Walters, and Paula Williams.

Guest: Roberto Santamaria, Director, Department of Health, and Janet Forest, Atheneum.

Thanks to the Atheneum, Janet Forest, for hosting the meeting. which was recorded and the link to YouTube is included here: <https://youtu.be/v8mWWt8r-Rs>

#### **I. Call the June 28, 2022, 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 May 24, 2022.**

Henry Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2022, Anne Terry moved approval, Trish Bridier seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

#### **III. Treasurer's Report.**

Anne Terry, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report, attached. There were no additions but expenses of \$435.04, which led to a new balance of \$3818.50. A motion to approve was made by Trish Bridier, seconded by Paula Williams, and approved unanimously.

#### **IV. Old Business.**

None.

## **V. New Business.**

Marsha Fader admitted that she was uncertain about various rules and regulations governing the flow of traffic: pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle, and thus asked if we could have a presentation at a future meeting on these rules. As an example, she cited bicycles on sidewalks, which she encounters frequently, and asked if they are legal. Perhaps, she added, the session could become the center of an education program for the public. Lee Saperstein and Henry Terry agreed that they would identify and invite a potential speaker or speakers. Mary Longacre noted that bicycle shops routinely inform renters of the rules and provide maps and handouts with printed information on them. Also, the new Transportation Planner, Patrick Reed, is now working with the Town and may be able to help.

On a separate note, Mary Longacre reported that the results of the Town's Open Space Survey are now available. They can be found in the Agenda Packet for the NPEDC meeting of June 27, 2022, as the item identified as "Nantucket Open Space Recreation Plan Survey 2022.Pdf:" <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/Planning-Economic-Development-Commission-28>, then go to Agenda Packet for 2/27/2022 and click on the survey or use the direct link to the survey: <https://nantucket-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4617?fileID=39709>. She added that there was substantial participation in the survey and that around 80 percent of the respondents thought that recreation was an important activity.

## **V. Guest Presentation: Roberto Santamaria, Director, Health Department.**

Henry Terry introduced Roberto Santamaria, Director, Department of Health, who has consented to answer questions about health activities on Nantucket. Lee Saperstein jumped in with a question on progress toward his degree. Roberto Santamaria seemed pleased to talk about his doctoral studies and spoke cheerfully about his committee accepting his proposal for a dissertation subject, which is to compare the unique experience and data from Nantucket for the recent COVID-19 pandemic with the same data as normalized for the entire country.

From this, he segued to a three-part discussion of disease incidence on Nantucket. Starting with COVID, he said that we are now more into an endemic although data collection is more difficult now that the Town and the hospital no longer control all testing. What they do know definitively is that hospitalizations are down and most cases are mild enough that they can be treated here.

The second disease that they are tracking is avian 'flu', which is more severe this year than in the past. As of yet, there are no cases of this 'flu' on Nantucket. As seen in its name, it is more harmful to birds than to humans. He is hopeful that this fall's seasonal 'flu' vaccine will include protection from avian 'Flu.' He noted that vaccine formulations are based on disease incidence in the southern hemisphere where it is mid-winter.

The third disease that they are tracking is monkey pox, a highly contagious but nonetheless mild disease. No cases of monkey pox have been found on Nantucket as of yet but they expect to see it sometime soon. He referred to an interview that he gave two and one-half years ago about what to expect from the COVID spread and said that his comments then remain valid and will apply to future epidemics.

From diseases, he turned to the Town's fertilizer regulations and amendments that have been proposed to them: see <https://nantucket-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4617?fileID=39702>. They are included in the NPEDC agenda packed for June 27, 2022, and can be found there similarly to the survey referenced above. The fertilizer Best Management Practice manual is now ten years old; he will re-convene the fertilizer advisor committee to work on renewing it. While the citizens' ban on fertilizer application passed at Annual Town Meeting means that the current regulations will remain unmodified. They can and will work to educate the public in general and commercial fertilizer applicators in particular on best practices. He was encouraged that Scotts, a major producer of lawn and garden fertilizers, will produce a Nantucket compliant product available sometime next year. Mary Longacre asked him to expand on Nantucket-compliant fertilizer and he responded that commercial applicators can get it but that local stores may or may not have it.

He indicated that he was open to questions and Anne Dewez asked, based on his dissertation work, whether or not the waste-water analyses for COVID were accurate. Tests of waste water at the sewer plant are used to predict future cases of COVID. He said that the first efforts were wildly off, often with a 50-percent error rate. Now, though, with experience, they are becoming much more accurate with no more than a five- to ten- percent error rate. She asked about the frequency of testing and he said, that with their high cost, testing is every other week. Recently the tests predicted 15 cases per day, which is a relative increase over the normal rate. Indeed, Nantucket has experienced one or more days with 25 cases.

Anne Dewez then asked if his department has planned for its role in monitoring activity in the Short-Term Rental, STR, market. Yes, he replied. Article 39, which did pass requires a permitting and data-gathering process. They are meeting with vendors who can supply technology for enforcement. An example of such technology is an automated scan of web sites to identify potential landlords. They have produced a basic outline of a defining regulation and are looking for a first draft that can be disseminated publicly and be reviewed in a public hearing.

Marsha Fader next asked him about the tick population and tick-borne diseases. Do they have data on the tick population, she asked? Yes, he replied, particularly with respect to the incidence of disease, which is on the increase. This year, to date, there have been 87 cases of Lyme Disease and 3 of Babesiosis. While this is not a substantial change from 2021, overall, it is greater than earlier years. Nantucket sees 175 to 200 cases a year and this number may be low due to under-reporting.

Marsha Fader then asked if there was anything new that is of concern to water quality. Roberto Santamaria, again, said yes. In addition to the PFAS contamination that has been reported, they are concerned with fluorocarbon contaminants in the water. Polytetrafluoroethylene, PTFE, is

the full name of a product sold as Teflon and is in the class of fluorocarbons. It is pervasive enough in private wells that the Town may need to drill another well to meet the demand for public water from those whose wells are contaminated. They, the Health Department, will cooperate with the Town's Department of Natural Resources in planning for a new well. It was asked then if wells can be tested by home owners independently. The answer was not really because only two licensed providers have the ability to perform tests for fluorocarbons: Alphalab, <https://alphalab.com/>, and Eurofins, <https://www.eurofins.com/>. He went on to say that with a raised water table, stormwater runoff is more likely to contain nutrient contaminants. They are seeing an increase in algal blooms in freshwater ponds such that they are already marking them as unsafe for swimming and pets.

The final question was on the status of a proposed water-quality laboratory. Given its cost, particularly for staff and for maintenance contracts of an expensive needed piece of equipment, the gas chromatography-mass spectrometer (GC-MS), it would be unlikely. He has not heard any new discussions of a Nantucket water laboratory.

Harking back to Marsha Fader's suggestion on a future speaker to cover rules and regulations for use of streets and sidewalks, Mary Longacre said that the Girl Scout Troop 66120 had produced a video on bicycle safety that can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/169161026?>. It is well worth viewing.

## **V. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm by motion from Paula Williams, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously.

**\*Next meeting is July 26, 2022, and will be via Zoom unless a decision to hold an in-person meeting is made; more information will be forthcoming with the next agenda; if one uses Zoom, registration is available at the following address:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrcOCsqj0iH9CoJJCY4FXOdz-tHfyynBrX>.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary, [saperste@mst.edu](mailto:saperste@mst.edu).

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

June 28, 2022

Beginning Balance		\$4,253.54
Deposits		
None		
Expenditures		\$435.04
Alex LaPaglia- \$219.04- web site and domain renewals		
USPS Box renewal- \$216		
End Balance		\$3,818.50

DRAFT