



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

July Meeting of Members

July 23, 2019, at 4:00 pm

In the Gallery of the Nantucket Atheneum

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Present: Mary Anne Easley, Gail Norton, Hillary Rayport, Lee Saperstein, Janet Schulte, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, and Paula Williams.

Guest: Mark Willett, Director, Wannacomet Water Company.

I. Call to Order.

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm in the Gallery of the Nantucket Atheneum.

II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of June 25, 2019.

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting, June 25, 2019, was moved by Anne Terry, seconded by Paula Williams, and approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Anne Terry reported (attached) no changes from the previous month, hence, a balance of \$4,375.20. After a motion of approval from Paula Williams and a second from Mary Anne Easley, the report was approved unanimously. In his comments, Henry Terry reported that the Association has a balance of \$34,984.60 in the account held by the Nantucket Community Fund.

IV. New Business.

Henry Terry reported that the Nantucket Town Association Annual meeting will be September 24, 2019. All present agreed that the meeting should be a social event held at the Brotherhood Restaurant. The Nantucket Civic League Annual Meeting will be September 9th.

Hillary Rayport made a presentation about the Nantucket Historical Commission of which she is President and explained its purpose and history. Including her, there are seven members of the commission and their role is advisory. Their mission is to bring an historical perspective to development on Nantucket. She recounted the published mission statement found on the Town's web site.

“The Nantucket Historical Commission is the local historic preservation and archaeology planning and advocacy agency. The NHC creates educational opportunities, creates plans for the preservation of Nantucket, advocates through the Board of Selectmen on issues of historic preservation, and oversees state requirements for archaeology.”

They are meeting with committees and commissions to explain this mission.

V. Old Business.

There was no Old Business.

VI. Guest Presentation. Mark Willett, Director, Wannacomet Water Company.

Mark Willett began by saying that he is pleased to be able to speak about water because it is critical to human existence and, of course, Nantucket's. He began by relating that the Wannacomet Water Company has spent two to three million dollars on geophysical investigation and modeling of the Island's water resources. The modeling was done by the United States Geological Survey, USGS, at its facility in Los Alamos, NM. Ours is the only water company that has done this level of investigation. One of the surprising discoveries was that we have three freshwater aquifers, not one: a near-surface aquifer that is tapped by most home wells and is contained by a modest retarding layer; deeper is the middle aquifer that is tapped by the water company; and under that is a thick, clay layer that is called the Glacial Lake Deposit. With very careful investigation, a third, very large aquifer was discovered beneath this deposit. Its age is contemporaneous to deposition from the glacier, 12 to 18 thousand years ago.

A question was asked about the Vineyard and Mark Willett answered that it has very similar geology but differing development patterns. With large estates, the population density on Martha's Vineyard is not nearly as great as ours. They also have individual water companies for their six towns. Mary Anne Easley asked about Nantucket pumping rates and was told that it was over four million gallons a day in the summer and only around one million in the winter.

They know from their investigations that pumping rates are about equal to recharge into the middle aquifer. Although fresh water drains into the Harbor at Monomoy, meaning that the aquifer outcrops at that point, there is salt water (brine) incursion into the wells in Madaket, which suggests that the reservoir's outcrop is east of Madaket. Their investigation goal is to map the water resources of the entire island not just the Zone 2, Wellhead Protection Zone. As an added concern, Mark Willett worries about protection from commercial development of water

resources beyond the three-mile limit, which is federal and outside of our protected zone. He commented that the USGS studies are world important and are being examined by many other domains including foreign.

Having heard about brine incursion from other sources, Lee Saperstein asked about creating a water-bottle filling station at the supermarket. Mark Willett responded that there have been vandalism problems and lack of citizen support for public water-bottle filling stations so perhaps a filling station inside the supermarket might be a solution. Janet Schulte, reporting for the Department of Culture and Tourism reported that the Historic District Commission, HDC, has just approved one model for a filling station and the Town is looking for places to install them. In terms of overall water quality, Mark Willett reported that landscapers are helping by complying with fertilizer regulations and the irrigation companies are also helping to conserve water. At this point, he told the group about the wide-spread contamination of waters by PFAOs, which are contained in fire-fighting foams and multiple other uses such as water-proof clothes and non-stick cookware. He said that their impact on humans is probably negative but not well understood. We know that this chemical is in our water but we need to sample for it more intensively. He also remains concerned about volatile organic compounds, VOCs, that might get into our water.

[According to the EPA: “Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s, and are (or have been) found in many consumer products like cookware, food packaging, and stain repellants. PFAS manufacturing and processing facilities, airports, and military installations that use firefighting foams are some of the main sources of PFAS. PFAS may be released into the air, soil, and water, including sources of drinking water. PFOA and PFOS are the most studied PFAS chemicals and have been voluntarily phased out by industry, though they are still persistent in the environment.” PFOA is perfluorooctanoic acid.

“These chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.” URL = [https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas.](https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas)]

He went on to tell the members that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns the groundwater, which is why the state may mandate pumping rates. Nantucket’s ground water comes from a huge, natural sand filter, thus it needs no treatment. The Water Company does sample regularly for bacteria and chemical contaminants. Lee Saperstein asked about the National Grid L8 project to bring additional power out to the Polpis area. His response was that if the Town decides that these lines must be buried then there will be a major space conflict problem. The power lines need to go into large, concrete conduit vaults and there is not enough room beneath the in-Town streets to bury them and still leave free passage for water and sewer lines. We need the additional power because we are dangerously close to insufficiency. Surface-mounted poles

may be the only answer. Someone asked about using a cross-harbor submarine cable and his response was that it appears to be a great option but we have little information about installation and environmental impact. Hillary Rayport asked if the Town is planning for infrastructure development to match real estate development. Yes, was the reply. Wannacomet meets regularly with the planners from PLUS.

Henry Terry asked if there were any other projects that he might mention. Mark Willett said, yes, there will be a major project along North Liberty Street to replace water pipes while other departments, DPW and Sewer, will be treating large drainage problems in that area. West Chester Street will be next once North Liberty is done. In answer to one final question, he said that water meters are read electronically. The use of smart metering means that they can check for leaks via the meters.

Henry Terry reminded the group that we had to finish by 5:00 pm and thanked Mark Willett for his very informative talk.

VIII. Other Business and Comments.

None.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4: 59 pm

- **Next Meeting is August 27th 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

July 23, 2019

Beginning Balance	\$4,375.20
Deposits	
Dues	0
Expenditures	0
End Balance	\$4,375.20

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Terry