



**NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION**

May Meeting of Members

May 28, 2019, at 4:00 pm

In the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Present: Mary Anne Easley, Lucinda Garrison, Jane Miller, Lee Saperstein, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, and Barbara von der Groeben.

Guests: Jeff Carlson, Director, Department of Natural Resources.

**I. Call to Order.**

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm in the Learning Lab of the Nantucket Atheneum.

**II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of April 23, 2019.**

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting, April 23, 2019, was moved by Anne Terry, seconded by Barbara von der Groeben, and approved unanimously.

**III. Treasurer's Report.**

Treasurer Anne Terry reported (attached) income of \$540.00, no expenditures, and a new balance of \$4,688.20. After a motion of approval from Barbara von der Groeben and a second from Mary Anne Easley, the report was approved unanimously.

**IV. New Business.**

There was no New Business.

**V. Old Business.**

There was no Old Business.

## **VI. Guest Presentation. Jeff Carlson, Director, Department of Natural Resources, on Coastal Resiliency Planning.**

Jeff Carlson, Director, Natural Resources, started by saying that he understands that there is a lot of interest on Nantucket in coastal resiliency. The Town is actively involved in planning for resiliency and is following a multi-pronged approach. Obviously, he pointed out, recent storm-related failures such as the washout of Polpis Road by wind-driven waves from 'Sachacha Pond or the downtown break of the sewer force main, have increased interest in vulnerability assessments across the Island. These failures led to designs for permanent repairs that will create resilient structures that are compatible with Nantucket's natural and cultural history.

To be truly prepared, however, planning needs to anticipate problems; this is the benefit of a hazard mitigation plan. Although we have not had a wildly destructive wild fire in our conservation land, local fires indicated the need for an Island-wide wild-fire plan that includes fire breaks and access ways into the moors.

He indicated that Nantucket has applied to the State to be eligible to receive Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, MVP, grants (<https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>). Nantucket has adopted a nearly 700-page Hazard Mitigation Plan that has been accepted by FEMA and this makes the Town eligible for FEMA grants (<https://nantucket-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24137/Revised-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-for-Nantucket>). Nantucket's hazard mitigation plan includes 55 to 60 items that are being worked on. One of these, he pointed out, is an update of the Harbor Plan, which is approaching ten years of age.

The resiliency workshop in January was organized to get substantial citizen input on vulnerabilities; participants suggested dozens of resiliency concerns and then voted on the most important. A report of the workshop is available (<https://nantucket-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24242/Community-Resilience-Building-Workshop>). Harbor and ferry access are of significant interest to NTA and are prominent in the list of identified vulnerabilities.

The next step, he said, is to form a work group that will advise on the various plans. During the three days of June 26<sup>th</sup> through 28, there will be two related conferences on coastal resilience. The first, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, is the Nantucket Coastal Conference, which is in the Atheneum and is free although pre-registration is required (<https://www.evensi.us/2019-nantucket-coastal-conference-atheneum-great-hall/307115943>). Following on that evening and for the next two days is the Keeping History Above Water conference. It is sponsored by the Nantucket Preservation Institute and there is a registration fee of \$120 (<https://historyabovewater.org/2019-nantucket/>).

At this stage of his presentation, Jeff Carlson said that people might like to ask questions; Lucinda Garrison then asked about the failure of Polpis Road by 'Sachacha pond. He answered that the current, temporary concrete retaining wall is to be replaced with a permanent, more natural approach that uses a beach to absorb wave energy. There is a plan to install concrete cages in various parts of the harbor as a habitat for oyster beds that will also absorb energy. He

indicated that the Polpis Road location is ideal to show the benefit of salt marshes as a buffering barrier. Lucinda Garrison asked if there is a plan to commercialize oyster beds in the Pond. At the moment, he replied, it is closed to shellfishing for health reasons. As water quality improves, commercial beds may be possible; unfortunately, as a brackish pond, it is not a favorable habitat for oysters. They do not grow large enough to be salable.

Mary Anne Easley asked if he could speak in general about the health of the harbor. He said that portions, particularly in the lower harbor, meet Total Daily Maximum Loads, TDML for nutrient contamination and can be called healthy. Eel Grass die off in the middle part of the harbor, particularly below Pocomo, may be stopped by transplants. The upper, Head of Harbor, does not meet TDML standards because flushing may take weeks and this slow movement of water leads to contamination issues. The upper part is also warmer and thus vulnerable to algal blooms. Land improvements to septic systems, fertilizer application, and the reduction of impervious surfaces will have their benefit in water quality over time. When asked about new building developments and their impact on the environment he said that it sometimes can be a good thing if the developers use best practices that are substantially better than older methods.

Barbara von der Groeben asked about the environmental impact of swimming pools and, particularly, emptying them. He said that some of our pools are behind the times in their construction and that we need new approaches. The Board of Health and the Conservation Commission are working on this problem aggressively with workshops and study committees.

Lee Saperstein asked if we are sharing information with benchmark communities. Jeff Carlson replied that water-front communities are very collaborative and have been linked by the state's coastal zone management offices. Because many of the techniques that work well are designs and management practices and are usually not commercially proprietary technologies, there is a willingness to share.

Lee Saperstein also asked about environmental issues at the end of Washington Street, also known as the Washington Street Extension. Jeff Carlson said that there is an active habitat restoration plan for Consue Springs and the duck pond that will involve increasing flow through culverts under the new bicycle path, which should help generate more salt marsh on the Orange Street side of the path. The duck pond will be bigger and some sort of holding tank or treatment facility will deal with stormwater discharges from Orange Street. A landscaping plan has been proposed by the landowner for land on or around 111 Washington Street and it is under study by the Conservation Commission and the Select Board. If the Nantucket Town Association wishes, it may choose to comment on this plan.

Jane Miller asked about this year's opening of 'Sachacha Pond. Jeff Carlson replied that there is a timing conflict with protected nesting birds. They will look to July as a time to try to open the pond. Sediment build up in the pond, which moves through the pond opening, has caused past difficulty in keeping it open.

The final question concerned developments at the Madaket Marine boat yard. His response was that there was nothing of significant concern. There is a request to modify a previously approved plan for docks to reduce their number. The request does not include any buildings.

### **VIII. Other Business and Comments.**

None.

### **VII. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm

- **Next Meeting is June 25<sup>th</sup> 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,

DRAFT

NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

May 28, 2019

Beginning Balance	\$4,148.20
Deposits	
Dues	+ 540.00
Expenditures	0
End Balance	\$4,688.20

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Terry