



## **NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION MEETING**

July 23, 2024, at 4:00 pm

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

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

Attendance in the Atheneum: Trish Bridier, Mary Anne Easley, Lee Saperstein, Campbell Sutton, Anne Terry, and Henry Terry.

Attendance by Zoom: Paula Williams. The Zoom link was <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87455121153>.

Guests: Meg Browsers, Director of Development and Operations, and Brooke Mohr, President, Nantucket Resource Partnership.

Thanks to the Atheneum, Sammy Aguiar, for hosting the meeting, which was recorded and the link to the video is included here: <https://youtu.be/BOZBNtiVJ7k>.

#### **I. Call the July 23, 2024, Nantucket Town Association Meeting to Order.**

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. He then gave the regular warning that no Town Area Plan subjects would be discussed at this meeting.

#### **II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of June 25, 2024.**

Henry Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2024; Trish Bridier moved their approval, Anne Terry seconded them, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

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

In Mary Longacre's absence, Henry Terry gave the Treasurer's report, which is attached. With no deposits or withdrawals, the beginning and ending balances were \$3608.16.

The Treasurer's report was accepted upon a motion made by Anne Terry, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously.

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

There was none.

#### **V. New Business.**

Also, none.

**VI. Guest Speakers.** Meg Browsers and Brooke Mohr, Nantucket Resource Partnership.

Henry Terry introduced Meg Browsers, Director of Development and Operations for Nantucket Resource Partnership, who said that they would give the organization's mission and intended future work and then turned the presentation over to Brooke Mohr, President who explained that it was formed two and one-half years ago to improve Nantucketers' access to human services and, in particular, food insecurity. Twenty-six percent of Nantucket's residents struggle to feed themselves and their goal was to reach out to this group. Anne Terry asked how they reached this number. Brooke Mohr explained that they had to infer some of the data by looking at annual incomes and then deducting the very high cost of housing on Nantucket. Below a certain income level, there was not enough income left for purchasing an adequate amount of food.

Brooke Mohr then detailed how the partnership is intended to operate and how it is funded. To assist her talk, she distributed a flyer, copy attached, and an abbreviated statement of purpose, also attached. She said that there are a number of agencies that act to assist people whose income is below the Nantucket poverty level but that there was an absence of coordination and a systematic method of referring clients to the appropriate agency. The partnership will be an umbrella layer able to generate strategies to reduce food insecurity and to create an easily accessed referral platform. They recently received \$1.8 million in a block grant from the Community Fund for Nantucket, CFN, who realized that an expanded capability was needed to manage it and transferred it to the Partnership; the fund came from the State.

She went on to say that they have created two new programs that will expend the funds: Health Imperative and Nutrition Nantucket. The specialty market at 14 Amelia Drive, Pip and Anchor, will create food parcels for clients. The connection between need and supply will be assisted by a digital platform created by the Partnership. In addition, they are working with Fresh Connect, a Boston-based agency, to create a debit-card program that will fund families up to fifty dollars per family member to buy fresh foods with their card. They intend to coordinate with SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly "Food Stamps"), as managed by the State.

The Partnership has also received a \$250k grant to research future food insecurities on Nantucket. The new program, Food First, is part of their on-line referral system; it has already made over one thousand referrals. There is a gap in WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, because benefits cease the day that the youngest child in a household turns five years old. They hope to close this gap. Their data suggests that 86 percent of Nantucketers who might be eligible for SNAP are not enrolled. As the Partnership matures, they hope to do a majority of the fund raising for organizations within their "Food Fund."

Mary Anne Easley, stating that she was a member of Nantucket's Council on Aging, asked about the Partnership's relationship with the Food, Fuel, and Rental Assistance Program; Anne Terry asked if there was a strategy for working with this program. There were several parts to Brooke Mohr's answer. The first was that the Food portion of the program was overwhelmed; their counter and refrigeration space was used to its maximum. The second was that the Partnership intends to reduce pressure on programs to raise funds and this applies to the Food, Fuel, and Rental Assistance Program. The Partnership will add value to the individual programs on Nantucket. Mary Anne Easley then asked about Meals on Wheels to be told that it was separately funded. She also suggested that reducing food insecurity was a supplemental benefit to the business community because it allowed workers to remain on Nantucket. It was mentioned, in

connection with this discussion of the involvement of the business community, that two major employers have internal nutrition programs for their employees.

Mary Anne Easley then added that free school lunches should be provided for all children. Brooke Mohr noted that the State has created a new program for just that but it does not cover the summer months when children are not in school and they hope to address this. Lee Saperstein said that an unfortunate element of substance abuse is that it can lead to poor nutrition. This led to a comment by Campbell Sutton that each of the Island's first responders: fire, police, and sheriff, should be connected to the referral system. Brooke Mohr added that there are now over 20 referral partners in the system. They include Fairwinds Counseling Center, a significant program for those with mental problems. Mary Anne Easley noted that it was often hard to get people to connect to programs and hopes that the enhanced referral service will help. She also added that medical transportation was another health issue that should be added to the referral system.

With no further questions, Henry Terry thanked who, in turn, said that additional questions were always welcome. Henry Terry then asked for a motion to adjourn and Anne Terry accommodated, with Trish Bridier seconding, and all voting aye.

## **VI. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.

**\*Next meeting will be on July 23, 2024. It 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](mailto:saperste@mst.edu).

**July 23, 2024, TREASURER'S REPORT:**

This month's Treasurer's Report reflects no activity.

Available Balance at last report:       \$3,608.16 on 06/25/24

Dues Received:                               \$0.00 through Paypal  
  \$0.00 checks

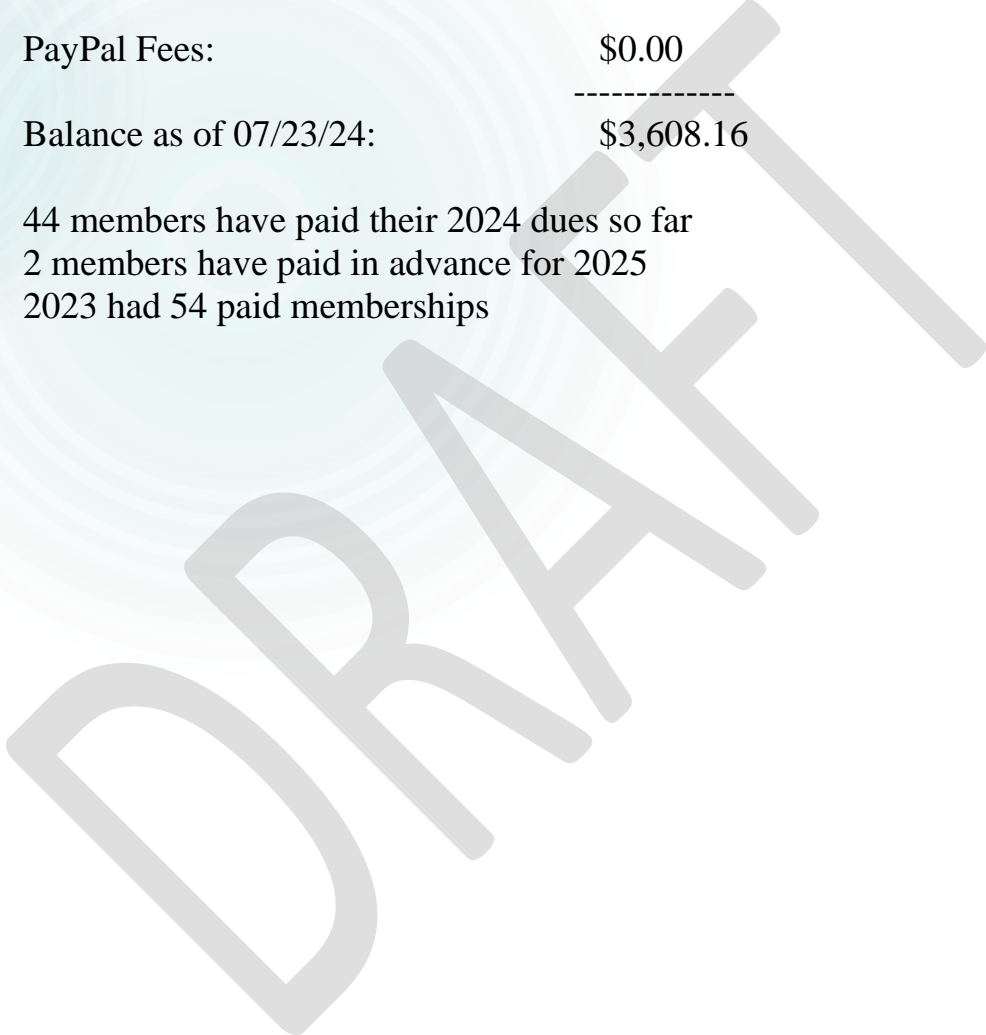
Total Income:                               \$0.00

Expenses:                                     \$0.00

PayPal Fees:                                 \$0.00

Balance as of 07/23/24:                 \$3,608.16

44 members have paid their 2024 dues so far  
2 members have paid in advance for 2025  
2023 had 54 paid memberships





## CREATING A TRULY FOOD-SECURE NANTUCKET

**DID YOU  
KNOW...?**

### Food Insecurity on Nantucket

MORE THAN  
**4,500**

island residents are  
impacted by food insecurity

**1** OUT OF **2**

kids in the public school  
system are eligible for free  
or reduced lunch

**60%**

of 302 surveyed food-insecure  
islanders are unsure of how to  
access food programs

### Who is NRP? What do we do?

We foster collaboration between island organizations to create an efficient and sustainable food security system.

NRP...

#### CREATES INNOVATIVE TECH

##### ⇒ Referral Platform

Developed and implemented Food First, a referral platform now in use by the majority of social service organizations serving Nantucket.

#### RESEARCHES & ANALYZES DATA

##### ⇒ Food Security Research

Conducted research to better understand the extent of food insecurity on Nantucket, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Produced a food insecurity report, in partnership with ReMain.

##### ⇒ Scorecard

Developing a community scorecard to illustrate the current state of food security on Nantucket. This work will provide data to guide community investments and reduce gaps in the current system.

#### SECURES ADEQUATE RESOURCES

##### ⇒ Financial Support

Provides fundraising resources to the Nantucket food sector including expanding philanthropic support, pursuing private and public grants and providing fiscal sponsorship to food security programs.

##### ⇒ Pilot Food Programs

Incubated and established the Fresh Connect debit card program and successfully transferred program to the Nantucket Food Pantry. Provided fiscal sponsorship of Nourishing Nantucket. Continues to seek out new food programs to establish on Nantucket.

##### ⇒ Food Sector Collaboration

Convenes food sector stakeholders to discuss strategies, common messaging, mutual support and discuss food referral tool and needed improvements.

*NRP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. 100% of your donation is tax deductible.*

## How can you help address food insecurity?

### DONATE TODAY!!

Scan the QR code to make a donation



#### BECOME A CHANGE AGENT

Make a monthly recurring donation of \$25 or more to become a Change Agent

#### BECOME A VISIONARY SPONSOR

Commit to a yearly donation of \$10,000 for 3 years to become a Visionary Sponsor

#### BECOME A TRAIL BLAZER

Commit to a yearly donation of \$30,000 to become a Trail Blazer

## NRP's Impact

### Connecting people and programs



Food First

22

**PARTNERS**

actively using the platform

769

**REFERRALS**

to food security programs

### Convening stakeholders

4

**ANNUAL FOOD  
SECTOR MEETINGS**

### Fiscal sponsorship of food programs

80

**FAMILIES FED WEEKLY**  
via Nourishing Nantucket



180,000+

**SERVINGS OF FRUIT & VEGETABLES**  
distributed since March 2022

### To learn more visit:



TheNRP.org



@resource\_partnership



Nantucket Resource Partnership





### A Summary of our Work

Nantucket Resource Partnership (NRP) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit committed to the creation of a **truly food-secure community**. Success will be achieved when Nantucket has progressed from a system of independent food programs to a **fully integrated and sustainable** food security system. NRP is well on our way to achieving this goal and our research indicates that the next step should be to create a centralized food fund.

Below is a summary of our work to date and our plans for the near future.

#### Focus Areas of Our Work

- **Raise Awareness**

Drawing attention to food insecurity in our community is crucial to drive action and garner support for our cause.

NRP has already made, or is scheduled to make, presentations to dozens of island organizations. We will continue to collaborate with our partners and island organizations to further this critical outreach.

- **Develop Partnerships**

NRP recognizes the power of and need for collaboration to achieve our mission.

NRP hosts quarterly Food Sector Partner meetings where progress is reviewed and input is solicited from various stakeholders. Our partners include Nantucket Food Fuel & Rental Assistance (the Food Pantry), Nantucket Public Schools; Elder Services (Meals on Wheels); Our House (teen meals); Women, Infants and Children (WIC); The Warming Place (meals for the homeless); St. Paul's Church (prepared dinners); and others.

The food fund will be governed by representatives from our partner organizations to ensure that decision making rests in the hands of those who are actively engaged in food security programming and those who are directly connected to the community members who participate in these programs.