

Minutes of Nantucket Historical Commission Meeting – January 15th, 2021

Establishment of Quorum

Commissioners Present: Hillary Rayport (Chair), Angus Macleod (Vice Chair), David Silver (Secretary) Mickey Rowland, Georgia Raysman, Clement Durkes, Don Demichele, and Tom Montgomery.

Guests: Marty Hilton, Dawn Holdgate, Rita Carr, and Esta Lee Stone

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present.

3.) Public Comment: N/A

Motion to accept the 1.5.2021 minutes of the NHC: Angus

Second: Tom

All in favor via roll call

4. Announcements

- ‘Sidewalk and Historic Pavement Report’ has been sent to select board. We are requesting our recommendations be accepted and a policy be adopted. It has also been sent to the HDC – we would like the HDC to formally vote to accept the recommendations in the report.

-announcement: Resilient Nantucket “Toolkit” discussion with the HDC 1/15 at 1pm via zoom

-We will be moving forward with the CLG Application with Select Board’s blessing. National Parks Service to review next. Great news and an exciting update.

5.) Setting 2021 Goals

We want to set some achievable and measurable goals for the upcoming year. The Commission wants to define some key results and put together a goal ‘scorecard’ to track our progress and stay up-to-date. The Commissioners brainstormed some ideas before the meeting and a productive discussion ensued.

List of Goals (in no particular order)

Survey Plan (Grant Application)

Master Survey Plan for entire NHL

Become a CLG

Continue with training and development

Increase and broaden awareness of Preservation

Real Estate Professionals (listening tour)

Inspire People to live in/preserve historic homes

Engage Other Groups (Black homeowner, younger generation)

Build public awareness of what we've lost

Working with and helping the HDC

Discussion: Our goals need be realistic/feasible since we are still in the midst of a pandemic. Among the Commissioners, the most important goals seem to be survey planning, becoming a CLG (and working with the HDC), and increasing awareness of preservation.

Fine-tuned list of 2021 goals:

1.) The NHC will Further the Expansion and Updates of Surveys of the NHL

2.) The NHC will Improve Town's Policies and Procedures Regarding Historic Preservation of Public Realm.

3.) "NHC and HDC Help and Support Each Other" or "Connect Cultural History to Current Values and Aspirations"

Path Forward: Chair and Staff to fine-tune these goals and discuss further so that we can vote on them during our next meeting in two weeks.

Motion to finish discussion/vote on goals at next meeting (1.29.2021): all in favor via roll call

6.) Other ATM articles – comments

Annual Town Meeting has a new timeline and will take place on June 5th, 2021. We have asked the select board to suggest a change to the limitations on road construction in order to further protect pavement. The Commission will continue to advocate for preservation of historic pavement.

Discussion: How might the commission take a stance, or not on proposed articles? We are a new commission and do not have a "history" of commenting publicly, and or taking "committee-wide" positions on ATM articles.

Path Forward: Continue to discuss our role and to be selective on what we comment/expend energy on. We wrote a letter in 2020 in support of the Planning Commission's article to limit swimming pools, we might continue that practice.

7.) MHC Survey grant application

Update: Betsey Tyler and Brian Pfeiffer are helping the NHC with the pre-application. We felt that in addition to produce a survey plan, we should also be able to produce some actual surveys. The MHC, working with Holly, Betsey and Brian, will identify the geography of different areas and resources ahead of time.

Path forward: Continue to devise the survey plan, but also begin a pilot survey of the fish lots with a consultant. Deadline on February 8th and a draft will be circulated to the Commissioners ahead of our next meeting on 1.29.2021.

8.) Potential Exhibit: History of Preservation on Nantucket

In Summary: This exhibit seeks to educate the entire Nantucket community –residents, home owners, contractors, craftsmen, architects, municipal officials about the history of the Preservation movement – its history, importance, and values.

This is a tremendous opportunity for different preservation groups on Nantucket to work together and collaborate on an educational exhibit. Esta Lee Stone has put together a plan for the exhibit and presented the plan to the Commission. A special thanks to Esta-Lee for putting this together.

Discussion: The Commission wants to work on this and continue discussing ways to make a prospective ‘preservation exhibit’ most accessible and digestible to the general public. There is some concern over getting public traction with a museum exhibit, but there are creative ways to make history/preservation fun and interesting and engaging. We need to focus on the exhibits’ presentation and marketing the event to make this worth all of the time/commitment this will take from several different individuals and groups. Rita Carr (NPT) and Marty Hylton (PIN) offered to assist.

Path Forward: NHC Commissioners who are interested in volunteering some time will continue to make headway on this. The Commission is very excited about partnering with Esta Lee and supporting the project.

9.) Other Business

We plan to go back to meeting monthly rather than every two weeks.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Tom

Second: Angus

All in favor via roll call