



# Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

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**Committee Members:** Denice Kronau (Chair), Stephen Maury (Vice-chair), Joseph T. Grause Jr., Peter McEachern, Joanna Roche, Peter Schaeffer, Chris Glowacki, Jill Vieth, George Harrington

## MINUTES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

*This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube.*

Called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Ms. Kronau

Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Rick Sears, Deputy Director Finance; Mariya Basheva, Financial Analyst; Graeme Durovich, Solid Waste

Attending Members: Kronau, Maury, Grause, Roche, Schaeffer, Glowacki, Vieth

Absent Members: McEachern, Harrington

Late Arrivals: Roche

Documents used: Draft minutes as listed; Citizen Warrant Articles for 2022 Annual Town Meeting; Mr. Mandel's emails regarding Articles D&E; State Attorney General's letter to Falmouth; FAQ regarding single use nip bottles; list of chemicals in filters; University of Bath "Tobacco Tactics" dated 13DEC21; "The Dirty Truth About Cigarette Filters"; NIH articles "The Need for Environmental Policy on Cigarette Waste" and "Tobacco Control" explaining toxicity effect on marine mammals and fish.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion **Motion to Approve.** (made by: Maury) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Grause, Vieth, Maury, Glowacki, Schaeffer, and Kronau-aye

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. January 10, 2022

2. January 13, 2022

Motion No action at this time.

Roll-call Vote N/A

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

### IV. DISCUSSION OF ARTICLES

1. D Bylaw Amendment - Single-Use Plastics - Alcoholic Beverages Container – Bruce Mandel

2. E Bylaw Amendment - Single-Use Plastics - Tobacco Filters – Bruce Mandel

Discussion **Kronau** – We will not be making a recommendation on these two articles today. Town Counsel has indicated corrections are necessary for FinCom to make appropriate motions.

**Mandel** -The purpose is to complete the round out of Town Code, Chapter 125.A for single-use plastic. Both of these Articles are to reduce non-compostable waste stream. His goal is to protect our aquifer and environment and he believes passing these articles are working to that end. He believes that with a sole-source aquifer, Nantucket can't afford to make mistakes.

Referenced his email regarding Article D with 9 bullet points. It's not about alcohol or drinking; there alternatives containers available. Other towns have successfully banned these single-use alcohol containers which the State Attorney General has approved. Chelsea passed a similar ban in 2018; it reduced nip litter, alcohol-related ambulance calls reduced, and public intoxication reduced.

**Grause** – Asked if there is any quantification the percentage of litter the nip bottles constitute.

**Mandel** – Anecdotal, it's a "nice chunk." In Falmouth, it represented 32% of the litter. Over the summer, he estimates picks up about 1000 nip bottles.

**Grause** – Asked if these bottle leech into the ground.

**Mandel** – He believes these bottles are not biodegradable and they aren't recyclable. These plastics aren't good for our ground water.

**Durovich** – This article hits upon a major litter issue; at the Nantucket Litter Derby, there were over 200 pounds of nip bottles picked up between 8 and 12 am. He's not aware of PFAS in PET plastic; but they can soak up and transport chemicals very well.

**Roche** – She heard the State was considering banning these and placing a minimum size on sale of alcohol containers.

**Mandel** – There have been State efforts to propose 5-cent deposit on plastic nip bottles over the years; they fail every time.

**Roche** – When she did the Island coast-to-coast hike in October, there were 2 types of litter: cigarette butts and nip bottles most prevalent in the State Forest.

**Grause** – Asked for confirmation this is only for plastic nip bottles not glass nip bottles.

**Mandel** – He is focusing on the small-size plastic bottles: 100 ml or less. However, if the need arose to ban glass nip bottles, it wouldn't be associated with this article.

**Kronau** – Under a plastic ban, it would be tough to tie in glass.

**Vieth** – The glass bottles are usually 3-times larger.

**Schaeffer** – Asked what percentage of plastic nip bottles against glass nip bottles. Asked if glass is an alternative for plastic.

**Mandel** – No, relying on Falmouth and Chelsea data, a substantial number of nips in that small size are plastic. He can research that. Whether it comes in glass or not depends upon the brand. As yet, he hasn't gotten any feedback from any Island liquor stores. He did research with off-Island package stores; nip bottles represent a very small section of their sales.

Regard Article E, there is a growing awareness of the environmental impact of discarding plastic, acetate, cigarette filters; these are one of the most commonly discarded elements on the Island. Referenced his email with 10 bullet points. Almost 80 added chemicals, one of which turn the filters brown, leech into the groundwater. CVS pharmacy no longer sells cigarettes with these filters. Quoted the New York State Department of Health regarding the fibers in filters. There are alternatives to plastic, acetate filters and the industry is aware of these. Cardboard filters are biodegradable and just as effective in filtering out hazardous substances. His objective is to protect Nantucket environment and groundwater.

**Schaeffer** – Confirmed that without the chemical which turns the filter brown, the filter would remain white.

**Mandel** – It would discolor but not so violently brown.

**Schaeffer** – It seems the cardboard filter would be less expensive than the plastic filters; it seems that if that is the case, the companies would want to use the cardboard filters.

**Mandel** – He assumes it has to do with how cigarettes are marketed and profitability.

**R.J. Turcotte**, Nantucket Land Council – We support these two warrant articles. There are alternatives. Oceanconservance.org has a synopsis of cigarette butts as the number 1 litter item with nip bottles coming in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Both bottles and filters break down to microplastics now found in our fish.

**Kronau** – Town Counsel has provided the correct wording for the motions, which will be voted on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Motion No Action at this time.

Roll-call Vote N/A

## V. RECONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FOR CITIZEN ARTICLE

1. L Bylaw Amendment - Gender Equality on Beaches – Dorothy Stover

Motion **Motion to open for reconsideration.** (made by: Vieth) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Not Carried 2-5// Glowacki and Vieth-aye; Grause, Schaeffer, Maury, Roche, and Kronau-nay

- Discussion **Kronau** – The motion not to adopt still stands.  
**Vieth** – She is disappointed in the vote not to reopen; she wanted to change her vote because in her opinion, this is a family-friendly island. To her it feels like we’re endorsing toplessness and she is personally uncomfortable with that.
- Motion No further action.
- Roll-call Vote N/A

## VI. PUBLIC HEARING AND DISCUSSION OF CITIZEN WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ATM)

1. F Home Rule Petition - Prohibiting Fertilizer – Joseph Minella  
Discussion **Glowacki** – When we were discussing fertilizer, there was a 2017 study with a NLC stamp.  
**Turcotte** – That is the health assessment for Nantucket harbor and our isotope analysis for Eel Grass. We can get that to Ms. Kronau.  
**Kronau** – Asked when the members want to rediscuss Article F.  
**Vieth** – Ready to vote on the earliest date possible; she still wants to know how this would affect the golf courses.  
**Kronau** – She will schedule the follow-up discussion for February 10<sup>th</sup> and will reach out to the golf courses.  
**Roche** – She has questions for Town Counsel about the fertilizer ban home rule petition.
- Motion No action at this time.
- Roll-call Vote N/A

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. None

## VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022 @ 4:00 pm.: Coastal Resiliency Report with Vince Murphy.  
Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 8:00 am.: Budget Review  
Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 4:00 pm.: Review of articles with legal issues with Town Counsel.  
Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 4:00 pm.: Real Estate Articles.  
Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 4:00 pm.: Review of Planning Board recommendations.

## IX. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Kronau** – Noticed members to lead department discussions for the January 29<sup>th</sup> Budget meeting.
  2. **Kronau** – Our final recommendations need to be done March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  3. **Roche** – She noticed a couple things about Contract Review that might be of interest to FinCom: hospital request for ambulances transporting off Island and the Food bank.
  4. **Schaeffer** – Asked that any memos reference the date of the meeting to which it refers.
  5. Adjournment
- Motion **Motion to Adjourn at 4:59 pm.** (made by: Roche) (seconded)
- Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Grause, Maury, Glowacki, Schaeffer, Roche, Vieth, and Kronau-aye

Submitted by:  
Terry L. Norton