



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## PUBLIC MEETING

2 Bathing Beach Road  
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

[www.nantucket-ma.gov](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov)

Monday, May 6, 2019

10 Surfside Road

Nantucket High School, Large Group Instruction Room – 4:00 p.m.

**Commissioners:** Andrew Bennett(Chair), Ashley Erisman(Vice Chair), Ernie Steinauer, David LaFleur,  
Ben Champoux, Ian Golding, Joe Topham

Called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Staff in attendance: Jeff Carlson, Natural Resources Coordinator; Joanne Dodd, Natural Resources Office Administrator; Terry Norton, Town Minutes Taker

Attending Members: Bennett, Erisman, Steinauer, LaFleur, Champoux, Golding, Topham

Absent Members: None

Late Arrivals: None

Earlier Departure: None

Agenda adopted by unanimous consent

### **I. PUBLIC MEETING**

#### **A. Announcements**

#### **B. Public Comment – None**

### **II. PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **A. Notice of Intent**

1. \*Sconset Beach Preservation Fund – 59-119 Baxter Road (49&48-various) Area SE48-3115 (**Continued 5/20/2019**)

Sitting Bennett, Erisman, Steinauer, LaFleur, Champoux, Golding, Topham

Recused None

Documentation Supporting documents and plans. PowerPoint® presentation.

Representatives None

Public Emily Molden, Nantucket Land Council (NCL)  
Dirk Roggeveen, Quidnet/Squam Association (QSA)

Discussion None

Staff Explained the reason for the continuance.

Motion **Continued to May 20, 2019 by unanimous consent.**

Vote N/A

### **III. PUBLIC MEETING**

#### **A. Certificate of Compliance**

1. Susan H. Ball – 41 Easton street (42.4.1-20)SE48-1387

Sitting Bennett, Erisman, Steinauer, LaFleur, Champoux, Golding, Topham

Staff We questioned the elevation; those turned out to be lower than is usually found.

Discussion (4:04) None

Motion **Motion to Issue.** (made by: Steinauer) (seconded by: Golding)

Vote Carried unanimously

#### **B. Other Business**

1. Approval of Minutes 4/22/2019: **Adopted by unanimous consent.**
2. Pool Discussion

Sitting Bennett, Erisman, Steinauer, LaFleur, Champoux, Golding, Topham

Documentation Correspondence

Public Emily Molden, Director Nantucket Land Council  
James Kielawa, certified pool operator & 1<sup>st</sup>-class start-up technician  
Burt Balkind, 10A Scotts Way, landscaper

Discussion (4:05) **Golding** – He has a friend in the pool business who mentioned how toxic are chemicals used in curing pools.  
**Champoux** – We have put in distance to groundwater, no discharge within 100feet of resource area, and no chemicals prior to discharge.

**Erisman** – Doesn't believe any pool should be waived for distance to groundwater.

**Topham** – Pools do require engineering plans. You need to assure that if the pool leaks, it won't go into the groundwater.

**Carlson** – Suggested something that addresses confirming distance to groundwater in all resource areas and clearly sets forth information required when asking for a waiver for distance to groundwater. Any regulatory change needs to be reviewed by Town Counsel. A question could be whether you can apply the same regulation to a full basement or not.

**Erisman** – Asked if the Sewer Department has data about how much pool water is going through their system that could be compared against the 800 pools we know of. If a pool is emptied randomly into the street, that is damaging as well.

**Carlson** – He thinks he can get an answer to that from David Gray, Sewer Department Manager. Roberto Santamaria, Health Director, has drafted regulations regarding pools and groundwater. It's hard to monitor pools because they are usually behind a house and out of sight. He's looked at other community pool standards but hasn't found any much different than ours.

**Steinauer** – Pools in land subject to coastal storm flowage are a different case.

**Erisman** – If there is a basement failure, it usually doesn't have the same impact as a pool.

**Carlson** – Structures in the flood zone have to be designed to allow the land the capacity to absorb the flood waters.

**Golding** – Wondered if gunite leaches during construction.

**Kielawa** – There is no water proofing on the outside of a pool shell; the concrete hardens over 28 days just like a basement slab. Explained the engineering for a pool to prevent buoyancy. Chlorine for swimmers is 1-3 milligrams (mg) per liter and drinking is 4 mg per liter; pools can go higher if you use a chlorine shock treatment, which can be as high as 10 mg per liter. Explained some of the chemicals and ways used to neutralize chlorine and problems those can cause. It's recommended to discharge pools into the lawn, but we don't want that since Nantucket is a sole-source aquifer. If antifreeze agent is used, it is put in the outdoor pump and sometimes the skimmers; around October the water is drained below the returns, about 1 foot, and the lines blown out. You PH, alkalinity, and calcium content are the three things checked to balance the pool water. The sun can dissipate almost 80 percent of a pool's chlorine on a sunny day. Before winterization, suggests pool operators not add chlorine after a certain date. Every time a chlorine disk is added to a pool, it should be recorded. Spas should be watched as well since the water has to be exchanged on a regular basis; some spa owners change the water between renters. There is now a building code for pools and spas. Explained Chloramine; used-up chlorine is what you smell. Explained the maintenance operator should be able to detect a leak in a pool; the only other way to tell is by the water bill or the well pump keeps kicking on. Explained the engineering of a pool especially regarding high groundwater. Reviewed the plumbing pipe installation. Drainage from a below-grade equipment room should be a concern for the Board.

**Balkind** – Fertilizer applicators have to record what is used; asked if there is anything like that or a data base for product used in pools.

**Kielawa** – There isn't a State data base but there probably is a data base somewhere. Noted that when chlorinated water goes into a sanitary sewer pipe, the chlorine level drops because the crud eats it up.

**Carlson** – Documentation of pool chemicals used is something that this Commission could condition.

**Erisman** – We need to require records on every time a pool and spa is drained down.

**Molden** – She was definitely interested in the Commission taking a closer look at pool standards and conditions. There seems to be a lot of potential for conditions not to be followed and potential harm from pumping out pools. Perhaps there are resource areas that should have greater buffers and/or restrictions. Agrees pools in land subject to coastal storm flowage might not be appropriate.

**Balkind** – Properties turned into Airbnb are getting drained at every turnover; he's never seen anyone do anything but run it into the lawn, which could be 1000 gallons a week.

**Carlson** – He has a list of information to get for the Commissioners. This discussion can carry on over several meetings.

3. Monitoring Report: None

4. Enforcement Actions: None

5. Reports: None

6. Commissioners Comment:

a. **Steinauer** – He had to watch the video for the last meeting. The audio was terrible; he could hear some presenters and a couple of commissioners but none of the public.

7. Administrator/Staff Reports: None

Adjourned at 5:20 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton