

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS
Minutes of meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, July 15, 2017, at
4 Fairgrounds Road

1. Attending: Gary Beller, Howard Blitman, Don Green, Peter Halle, Peter Kahn, Bill Sherman, Jay Strauss, and Anthony Walsh, and guest Town Manager Libby Gibson. Members absent: Sue Matloff and Barbara Matteucci.
2. Our Chair Jay Strauss called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and declared a quorum present.
3. After approval of the agenda (with election deferred) and adoption of minutes of September 3, 2016, our guest Libby Gibson opened with a presentation of the many significant issues currently facing Town Administration.
4. Notable items are: resolving the question of bringing Our Island Home up to code, issues with the Richmond Group's development on Old South Road, updating the Town Code, fleshing out the position of Town Cultural and Tourism Director, preparations for a Special Town Meeting 11/6/17, developing the FY2019 budget, planning for the Town's needed capital improvements, setting policies on major public events (Pops, fireworks, Race Week, etc) to minimize conflicts, license policy for selling (only local) products on Town streets and sidewalks, adequate parking and traffic mitigation, illegal signs and public TV display, stresses on understaffed DPW, mosquito abatement, housing development on the Town's 6 Fairgrounds property, with ReMain the Town is undertaking a population study for clarity on island demographics, newly formed Town Government Study Committee, residential real estate tax exemption, energy initiatives of the Town's Energy Program and Outreach Coordinator, occupancy limits for island restaurants, possible Town-owned intermodal transportation center in Harbor Place, \$2M more funding needed for new Fire Station (with debt exclusion?), paying for sewer improvements, e.g., by general tax levy, coordination of sewer and storm water upgrades with utilities, leveling town sidewalks, maintenance of street lamps (overhead by National Grid, other by Town), and rerouting Sconset water up Baxter Road on the inland side.
5. The Town is considering District Infrastructure Funding, a way to assure that proffers from a development in the District result in infrastructure upgrades within that District but with some loss of flexibility. In the case of the Richmond Group development off

Old South Road, the BOS has entered a memorandum of understanding assuring inclusion of affordable housing, sewer upgrades, and some Town road takings in return for a roundabout and other Old South Road improvements.

6. Under recent MA recreational marijuana law, the Town needs 11/6/17 Special Town Meeting approval for timely zoning to limit retail outlet location. A marijuana retailer needs BOS and MA O.K. to operate, also a source of marijuana without shipment across the Sound under federal jurisdiction.
7. A bid has been accepted for construction of some 64 rental units on the Town's 6 Fairgrounds property, some market rate for developer return, some affordable and for Town employees. How best to manage rentals of those and other Town properties needs resolution.
8. The MA legislature has not extended the Room Occupancy tax to short-term seasonal rentals (e.g., via Airbnb, HomeAway or VRBO) or otherwise enabled the Town to address their impacts.
9. MA enabling legislation allowing the BOS to increase the RE tax exemption benefitting year-rounders from 20% to 35% will be looked at by the BOS this fall but local increase is thought unlikely.
10. High efficiency geothermal systems are used to heat the Town's PSF and ReMain's Center Street building. Solar has been O.K.d for the ice rink, not yet for Town sites.
11. Restaurant occupancy limits are controversial because of different reckoning under building, fire and health codes and some mid-evening switches from restaurant to bar. Engineering analysis for compliance is costly.
12. The Town has interviewed for a potential consultant, to be funded by Nantucket Island Resorts, to guide it on issues in private development of Harbor Place, e.g., a Town-owned intermodal transportation center. Gary Beller offered Libby helpful materials from the very successful New York Botanical Garden transportation center.
13. Responding to Howard Blitman's (and the Land Council) concern about storm water management, the new DPW Director Rob McNeil will get better coordination between upgrades of sewer and storm water lines, impacted utilities, and maintenance of streets and sidewalks. Road openings for access, if needed, will be off-season, if possible. Tripping on in-town sidewalks, with ~1/yr insurance claim, is a DPW issue.

14. Current OIH occupancy is 37:45, relocation an open issue, also privatization. General trend puts emphasis on in-home care but staffing 24/7 is hard and future funding is in question.
15. After expressing thanks for Libby's full and generous presentation, the Chair called for nominations. While current ACNVT officers are open to replacement, motion was made, duly seconded and passed to re-elect the current Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the current FY2018. The Chair asked that the Vice-Chair be kept currently involved for assured backup.
16. Howard urged that the Chair, himself or through a designee, provide ACNVT representation at Special and Annual Town Meetings. (That involves notice to and concurrence of Town Moderator and Town Clerk.) Howard also noted that the position taken by ACNVT at its 9/13/14 meeting on siting of the new hospital had influenced NCH Board member Steve Karp.
17. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m., the next meeting being set for Saturday August 19, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the PSF Training Room.
18. Respectfully submitted,

Bill Sherman, Secretary

Draft minutes e-distributed 7/25/17. Minutes adopted 8/19/17, posted 8/21/17 and hard copy submitted to Town Clerk 8/21/17