

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS**  
**Notes of meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, August 8, 2020 via Zoom**

1. Attending members: Kathy Baird, Lou Bassano, Gary Beller, Bill Gardner, Peter Halle and Peter Kahn; Ronald Berman (guest) and Roberto Santamaria (Department of Public Health) was our guest speaker. Members absent: Howard Blitman, Don Green, Sue Matloff, Mary Russell, Bill Sherman.
2. Chair Gary Beller opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m., declaring a quorum present and read the script for Zoom meetings provided by the town. Proposed agenda for today's meeting and minutes for the July 25, 2020 meetings were approved by roll call vote.
3. Gary introduced our guest Roberto Santamaria, stated the mission of ACNVT and asked him to begin his remarks on the COVID-19 impacts of the summer visitors to the island and whether day trippers could be banned from the island. Roberto Santamaria explained that closing the harbor or Nantucket Sound were within not only state but federal waters so the town has relied on voluntary restrictions on passengers by both ferry systems. However, since the Commonwealth has a home rule law, local governments can issue emergency orders as long as they are more, not less, restrictive than the state orders. Roberto indicated that Nantucket has remained just ahead of the state in issuing pandemic restriction orders. Roberto noted concerns about misinformation on social media that have resulted in education efforts by the town while balancing public health and science vs. the economic impacts and enforcement. Nantucket has the lowest number of COVID-19 cases of any county in the state. Roberto thanked ACNVT members for their continued support to the town, island institutions and non-profits.
4. Roberto then answered questions from attendees. Lou asked if there would be a change in restriction orders by Labor Day and Roberto indicated that although the rate of infection is slowing, an anticipated spike in cases between now and then may result in a rollback or further restrictions to curb unsafe behavior at the state and town levels. Peter Kahn asked for a clarification of the new Governor's order and Roberto stated that the public outdoor gathering limit had been reduced from 100 to 50 (and this will impact the Dreamland Drive In Theater operations), alcohol-to-go will no longer be permitted, food off the menu must be ordered with

a drink and state police will be available to assist in enforcement, especially at illegal parties where alcohol will be confiscated.

5. Peter Halle asked how ACNVT members can help and Roberto shared guidance as to when to notify the authorities of order violations and provided contact information to report illegal gatherings ([health@nantucket-ma.gov](mailto:health@nantucket-ma.gov) or call police dispatch at 508 228-1212). Regarding mask violations, he advised to speak to the manager at a restaurant or retailer rather than personally intervening and indicated that a 75-80% compliance in wearing masks is still effective in stopping the spread.
6. Kathy asked a question about the quarantine order naming specific states that were exempted and whether or not the Commonwealth would consider citing their data source and stating that quarantine would not be required for those states with a 7 day rolling infection average as good or better than Massachusetts, since the infection rates are constantly changing around the country. Roberto indicated their data sources were the CDC and Johns Hopkins Regional Coronavirus Center. Peter Halle noted that Vermont which also has travel restrictions and goes to the county level with restrictions and offered to send the link to Roberto. Roberto agreed that the travel restriction was largely unenforceable, is better in tracking air travelers who are told by their airlines to register but those arriving by car are very hard to trace.
7. Bill Gardner thanked Roberto for the great job he and his team are doing and asked him what their biggest challenge and he indicated the restaurants were complying well despite being hit the hardest by these orders but the private parties were the issue, especially those on the beach (~2 per day) and explained the circumstances around the successful resolution of the 5 Corners party.
8. Ron Berman asked how it was possible to quarantine for 14 days for week-long rentals. Roberto indicated that a quarantine for 14 days followed by leaving the state was acceptable under the order but that the order remained voluntary as only a court order can enforce someone to stay in their home. This was the reason for the stricter mask order in downtown Nantucket and Sconset. Real estate and the lodging community have been very cooperative in getting up-to-date information about restrictions out to potential renters. In response to a question from Gary about effective frequency of testing, Roberto stated that weekly is fine and indicated that a new, less invasive and faster anterior swab nasal

test will soon be available so visitors can schedule their test ahead of time, take it on arrival and get results within a few hours, thus limiting quarantine. He noted that he is worried about the spike nationally but not locally through the fall but encouraged everyone to get their flu shot as soon as it is available since symptoms are similar to COVID-19 and having both would be disastrous.

Roberto indicated the flu shot supply should be adequate given the early ordering of it with plans already in place to support a surge

9. Peter Kahn asked about seasonal residents staying well into the fall and its impact on the school system and town infrastructure.

Roberto indicated that so far he knows of 10 new families who have enrolled their children and that he believes the town will be able to adjust to support this although some food/supply shortages may happen as retailers adjust their algorithms to the demographics.

10. Bill Gardner asked if someone who does not believe they have been exposed, should take a COVID-19 test and Roberto indicated it was not necessary.

11. Ron Berman asked about hurricane preparedness and shelter given the need to socially distance. Roberto indicated that plans were in place to handle that using all 3 schools if necessary and his more significant worry was south shore erosion damaging infrastructure.

12. Gary asked why the new hospital had no ICU despite the \$120M spent on it and Roberto indicated that the cost of an ICU was very significant and the ongoing costs to staff it with specialists who would not be needed full-time made it unviable. Instead there are operating rooms that are equipped to temporarily serve that purpose to stabilize patients until they can be airlifted to Massachusetts General Hospital. Gary thanked Roberto for sharing his morning and for his service to the island.

13. Peter Halle moved and it was seconded and roll call approved to issue a resolution of condolence to long-time ACNVT Member and Secretary Bill Sherman in the loss of his wife Jeanne at 91, after 65 years of marriage, encouraging everyone to read her impressive obituary in the July 30 Inquirer & Mirror.

14. Future speakers at ACNVT meetings were discussed and it was confirmed as follows: Stephen D. Arceneaux (Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works) for 8/22 and the Finance Committee (Brian Turbitt - Director of Municipal Finance and Denice Kronau) for 9/5. Gary requested topics for the DW and it was agreed to ask about storm surge, drainage, incursions into

rights of way, trash around the island, street light outages with any others to be emailed to Kathy or Gary.

15. Gary noted the ACK Now white paper that was sent around regarding Short Term Rentals and a short term discussion resulting in the idea of inviting someone from ACK Now to speak to ACNVT sometime in the future.
16. Gary also noted that there is no reason for ACNVT to stop meeting this fall if we can continue to do so via Zoom and that having 2 speakers per meeting (as we had last meeting). As that idea found favor, it was agreed to set aside up to 2 hours per meeting. It was further agreed that additional speakers to invite will include; Marianne Stanton (Editor, Inquirer & Mirror), Melissa Murphy (Newly Elected Select Board Member), Rachel Day (Assistant Town Manager, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Lead and Our Island Home), ACK Now, Police Chief, Fire Chief were suggested as speakers. It was agreed to ask Rachel Day to be our second speaker at our next meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to notify the town that we plan to continue to meet on Zoom as long as the Governor's temporary modification to the open meeting law remains in place and draft a resolution to support any effort to make that change permanent. Peter Halle agreed to draft a resolution to send to the town, as discussed, for review and approval at our next meeting. Gary also noted that the town has decided not to have a fall town meeting to deal with the remaining warrant items.
17. Gary noted that the CRAC Resolution ACNVT submitted to the Select Board after our last meeting, was passed unanimously at their most recent meeting.
18. Gary continues to draft a letter to the editor of the Inquirer & Mirror and was provided input from ACNVT members. He will circulate the draft for further feedback
19. Discussion of programs for future meetings resulted in the following revised list of topics:
  - Update on Harbor Place and related transportation issues
  - Update on paid in-town parking, demand management parking
  - Status of Town alternative energy and energy efficiency initiatives and National Grid response regarding delaying or foregoing third seabed power cable from the mainland (with Lauren Sinatra), also Nantucket PowerChoice
  - Continuing updates on recommendations of TGSC for charter, other Town government changes

- Reporting of CRAC findings, recommendations
- ACK NOW – potential Short term rental limitations
- Research construction ordinances by town or other neighborhood associations to deal with excessive noise

20. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Baird, Secretary

The following is the url for the recording of this meeting.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd\\_USD5dGas](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd_USD5dGas)