

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS

Notes of meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, August 22, 2020 via Zoom

1. Attending members: Kathy Baird, Lou Bassano, Gary Beller, Bill Gardner, Don Green, Peter Halle and Peter Kahn; Ronald Berman (guest) and Stephen Arceneaux (Deputy Director of Operations for the Department of Public Works) was our guest speaker. Members absent: Howard Blitman, Sue Matloff, Mary Russell.
2. Chair Gary Beller opened the meeting at 10:02 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 August 8, 2020 meetings were approved by roll call vote.
3. Gary introduced our guest Stephen Arceneaux, and asked him if the department was having operational or special project issues due to budget restrictions. Stephen noted that his department got a 17% budget increase so their main issue is attracting and retaining year round staff in a competitive job market and difficulty in finding affordable housing. They are outsourcing some work like line painting. Gary asked a question about the large sewer project and Stephen noted that it is a Sewer Department project but DPW is working with them to minimize road closures and coordinate with them on storm drains which is a DPW responsibility. He noted that the use of storm drains is now shifting to a process that better supports coastal resiliency flood mitigation and cleaning out those drains to improve flow. Gary asked about a new project to mitigate draining problems for Children's Beach and Stephen noted that is a separate project, involving pump repair and servicing. Gary asked if the pump issue was involved in the recent e. coli issue there and Stephen noted that he would follow up on that issue.
4. Stephen then answered questions from attendees. Peter Halle noted his observation over the past 13 years that development is contributing to flooding and expressed concern that hardscaping and drainage (possibly dry wells) for individual homes was not controlled by any single town agency. Stephen noted that this is a genuine concern which is not under the purview of DPW and he is also concerned that there is insufficient development planning around sewer usage. Peter asked what support ACNVT could provide on this issue and Stephen asked that we be vocal on raising awareness and supporting informing homeowners of potential issues so they can mitigate them in their development plans. Stephen noted they are working with PLUS now to share and better

coordinate information on development in advance of any regulatory guidance. Peter asked a question about encroachments which limit visibility at intersections. Stephen noted that an encroachments committee exists (meets every two weeks) and is working with them to deal with those as they are identified by notifying homeowners or property managers. A policy exists (since 2006) that 15 days after encroachment notification, DPW can do the work and charge it back to the homeowner. The encroachment committee can be notified via the town website (follow the How Do I Report an Issue, Public Works Assistance link) where a work request will then be issued and prioritized. For emergency issues, Stephen recommended using 911 to reach dispatch.

5. Don Greene asked about the potential use of automated traffic signs just prior to entering traffic circles. Stephen indicated that these types of issues go through the Traffic Safety Workgroup in coordination with DPW and suggested this be entered as a service request through the previously noted town website process. Don asked about the contents of catch basins which may include fertilizer, insecticides and vehicle effluent and Stephen noted there is no specific testing for those before they enter the pump stations and the harbor.
6. Peter Kahn asked how the DPW sets priorities and size and organization of the department. DPW has 30 people with administrators (to deal with contract work and supervision), including workers (19). Of those workers, Facilities is staffed with 7 who deal with town building maintenance and Operations has 11 who are the most visible (potholes, sand removal, trash pickup, cemetery maintenance, vegetation control). Stephen is the Deputy Director of Operations. Rob McNeil is the DPW Director and acting Town Engineer. Stephen indicated that they have a weekly leadership meeting to identify open items and prioritize and schedule them, including the use of outside contractors when appropriate. Health and welfare and sanitation issues are always the first priority. Peter also asked about the excess trash along the roadsides this year and Stephen indicated that there was a loss of personnel this year, impacting their operations but DPW has set up 5 areas to dispose of collected roadside trash and the Clean Team is a major contributor to the roadside cleanup.
7. Gary asked about the next step for the town landfill since it is filling up. One cell in the landfill will need to get capped in the next 2

years and contains non-compostable materials that have been thrown out with compostables. DPW does process and remove the compostables into soil. He did not know what the next step would be after the second cell is full and recommended that we ask someone from Waste Options be invited to speak to our group.

8. Lou Bassano asked if burning waste (high temperature incineration) to generate energy was an option and Stephen indicated this has been considered in the past and did not know if it was still being considered. David Grey (Director of the Sewer Department) is looking into this for burning sewerage and getting federal support for doing so. Gary then thanked Stephen Arceneaux for joining our meeting and responding to our questions relating to issues involving the DPW.
9. Gary Beller asked for further input on a draft letter to the Inquirer & Mirror to publicize the ACNVT mission and eliciting new members. After some discussion it was moved, seconded and approved by roll call to have Gary update the shorter version of the letter, include an invitation to potential members to join one of our meetings and have Bill Gardner personally deliver the letter from Gary to Marianne Stanton for publication in the letters to the editor section of the INKY as well as to see whether Marianne Stanton would be willing to be our guest speaker at a future meeting . It was also noted that many of the I&M subscribers are non-voting taxpayers.
10. Gary noted that our next meeting on September 5 features two speakers from the Finance Department and he solicited questions for the speakers to be sent to him prior to the meeting. Rachel Day (Assistant Town Manager, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Lead and Our Island Home) has confirmed for our September 19 meeting. However, it was noted that this was a religious holiday and it was agreed to reschedule to September 26 and Kathy will see if Rachel could join us then instead. It was further agreed that additional speakers to invite will include: Melissa Murphy (Newly Elected Select Board Member), ACK Now, Police Chief, Fire Chief.
11. 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

12. There was a motion, seconded and approved by roll call to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Baird, Secretary

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mVE5tNQpL4>