

Minutes of Nantucket Historical Commission Meeting – October 15th, 2021

Commissioners Present: Hillary Rayport (Chair), Angus Macleod (Vice Chair), David Silver (Secretary) Mickey Rowland, Georgia Raysman, Clement Durkes, Tom Montgomery, and Barbara White.

Staff: Holly Bakus

Guests: Mary Bergman.

The meeting was called to order via Zoom with a quorum present.

1.) Public Comment: N/A

2.) Approval of July Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the NHC's September 2021 Meeting: Tom

Second: Angus

All in favor via roll call

3.) Announcements

Annual Report due to the town has been distributed to the Commissioners.

Motion to submit the report as written: Tom

Second: Georgia

All in favor via roll call

4.) Staff and Board Chair Update

Grant Pre-Application

Hillary: There is a pre-application (in the packet) due 11.15.21 for our island-wide survey. Chair suggests that we submit the pre-application as written. Holly mentioned that we will have money budgeted for the next budget cycle. This is what CLG's do to update surveys.

The grant is due in March, and it will be a lot easier to implement over time because these grants move in cycles. Hopefully, the 'survey plan' will be done by the time we start next year.

MHC Survey Projects

Holly: Received formal acceptance last week from MHC to move forward with Public Archaeology Lab (PAL). Contract with PAL was on the agenda with the select board on October

6th and later approved it. Since the town received funding from the state, we are still finishing the contract with the town and our consultant, PAL.

Discussion: Nantucket is extremely fortunate to be able to work with PAL on this project. We look forward to seeing this project take shape as NHC (Nantucket Historical Commission) commissioners will be meeting with PAL's consultants. Holly will coordinate meetings and will notify the rest of the Commission. Barbara, Tom and Hillary will coordinate about the survey effort with Holly and keep the commission informed.

Hillary presented the FY21 annual report. This was unanimously approved. Hillary will submit to Erika for publication in the Town annual report.

Mayflower Wind

Next wind energy project. BOEM will engage with a Section 106 process, and we have requested to be a consulting party. We hope that Tom will continue to be our Section 106 representative on wind farms. Holly said that as consultation letters come in, the Town will make sure our special expert council is aware.

Fall Course with NAREB

NAREB decided that because this class could not be in-person, we should move it to Spring 2022. This will give us more time to prepare, and the in-person class will be much more effective and robust.

Telephone Poles Downtown being reinforced with supports

Verizon has informed the Town that there are over 100 telephone poles in the downtown area that are weak and at risk of falling over. Rather than remove and replace the poles, Verizon would like to reinforce them. Erika Mooney contacted the Chair and asked for comment about the proposed support system, which is a steel splint. NHC Chair submitted a list of questions and comments, including asking about an alternative system offered by the company Verizon contracts with, Osmose. It is a wood-colored, fiberglass wrap instead of the metal splint. The Commission agrees that these look more uniform and historically sensitive than a metal splint/truss. We recommend that we use fiber wrap or replace the poles as opposed to metal truss in all historically sensitive areas. Preference will be passed onto Erika.

Grant Application to the CPC to Rehabilitate the Sidewalks on Main Street

The CPC Committee heard our application in early October. We had our engineers and PIN as well as several letters of support. They voted not to go ahead with our request and our application is out.

Discussion: Dawn Holdgate, CPC member, said the application was rejected because the CPC felt the Town should pay for this work.

Path Forward: Hillary will have a conversation with CPC Chair, Ken Beaugrand. We will once again formally ask the Town for funding for this. Our sidewalks and streets are truly huge cultural and historic asset to Nantucket.

HDC Joint Meeting

Scheduled for 11.12.2021. We are waiting to plan our agenda with the HDC. Angus and Hillary have requested a joint meeting of the chairs and Holly to plan.

5.) 2022 Workplan (New Business)

Possible Projects

1. Survey and Preservation Plan for Town-owned resources. *Need to request budget for this.*
2. Archaeology
3. NHC Bylaws: review charter and bylaws

Inquiries

1. Town Records – are there any records to digitize/organize?
2. Signs on Milestone Road – can some come down?
3. Lighting – switch to LED, Historical Concerns. Decision for Chair to contact Lauren Sinatra.

Development

1. Small projects loan fund (Arlington Model)
2. More joint work with HDC
3. Outcomes of November meeting TBD

Discussion:

All the commissioners are excited about these new business items. Other ideas included Education, CDT Zoning, and Streetscape Rehabilitation.

Membership and bylaws

When the voters adopted MA Law for local historical commission, the Town. Warrant at ATM to get our commission to 7 members.

Do we need alternates? We appreciate the alternates we have but generally the attendance record among alternates is not as strong. We have never failed to have a quorum. It's a bigger group to manage which is more work. All agreed to ask the Select Board to adjust our membership to: *NHC will consist of 7 members and sitting alternates are to fulfil their term, however no new alternates would be added.* This would be an action at Town Meeting.

Demolition Delay

Continuing the discussion from the last meeting. If we wanted to have a concept of a “preferably preserved” determination to be part of the process to obtain a demolition permit. We can bring this as a warrant through the zoning bylaw, or through a general bylaw. The advantage of doing a

general bylaw is that it would pass with 50% support. We should discuss this with the HDC to ensure that they feel it is both appropriate and helpful to them.

6.) ATM Actions

Pool/Spa Citizens Warrant

Draft of Citizens Warrant from Anne Dewez was shared on the agenda. She is going to be bringing this to the next Planning Board meeting for feedback. What she is suggesting is a change in the definition of swimming pools to align with the definition of a spa.

Existing Definition for Spa: Anything equal to or less than 150 square feet (about half the area of a parking space).

Proposed Definition: Anne is still deciding but currently working with a maximum of 36 square feet (6x6). Gallonage be no more than 1000 gallons. Anything bigger than a spa is considered a pool.

Structure of the proposal: *Either amend the use chart to say that a spa is not an allowed use in ROH/SOH **OR** the motion would be to allow spas in ROH/SOH only by special permit.*

Path Forward: The Commission is unanimous that they would like to see spas banned in the *both ROH/SOH.*

7.) Other Business

We would like to continue working with the Planning Board and the NPEDC as the Preservation Planning Committee. Suggestion to send a letter to these groups to ask to be a part of these discussions leading up to ATM. Our concerns are strictly historical, and we need to stress that in this letter.

Update to the Select Board

Has been approved and Hillary will present this at board meeting October 20th. We will ask them for direction/feedback re: things that they might want to see us work on.

Motion to adjourn: Angus

Second: Mickey

All in favor via roll call

~meeting adjourned~

