



Authority and Purpose

A Siasconset sunrise, a Nantucket treasure upon which it's impossible to place a value.

Rob Benchley

This Comprehensive Community Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Community Plan” or simply, the “plan”) has been prepared by the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission (NP&EDC) pursuant to Chapter 561 of the Acts of 1973, which states that, “The Commission shall be responsible for the preparation of comprehensive plans for the physical, social, and economic development of said county and town {Nantucket} and shall make recommendations for action to implement said plans to the responsible county and town agencies.” It is the intention of the NP&EDC to present this Community Plan for a vote by resolution at a Special Town Meeting, to ensure that it represents a consensus of the views of the voters of Nantucket. This Community Plan is NOT a “master plan” or a “comprehensive plan” adopted by a Planning Board, as described in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 81D.

This Community Plan is intended as a statement of the goals and objectives of the people of Nantucket and a set of interrelated nonbinding recommendations to implement those goals and

objectives. By passing a resolution adopting this Community Plan, Town Meeting commends the plan for consideration by the public, quasi-public, and private entities and individuals who will collectively determine the future of Nantucket.

Because of the broad scope of the issues discussed in the Community Plan, the successful implementation of the plan's recommendations depends upon coordinated voluntary action not only by governmental agencies, but also by private citizens, businesses, and civic organizations. In order to be comprehensive, the plan therefore encompasses recommendations that can be implemented both inside and outside of local government. The plan is designed to provide a coordinated framework for charting the future course of the town as a whole, including not only its formal government, but also its people and the various organizations that serve them.

The plan is not intended as a directive or mandate to any board, authority, public official, organization or private citizen. It is in the tradition of Nantucket that many functions of general public benefit are performed by private organizations and citizens rather than government. For this reason, many of the nonbinding recommendations in the plan are directed toward the private sector. This Community Plan is not intended to increase the role of government in the private sector. On the contrary, it is intended to encourage more effective public-private partnerships by recommending roles for both the public and private sectors to serve the community for the common good.

None of the recommended actions in the plan can be taken without a subsequent voluntary decision on the part of Town Meeting, town officials, town departments, town boards, public authorities, or other organizations or individuals. These subsequent decisions or actions are listed within the plan for consideration by those who would be responsible for their implementation. The Community Plan is intended to chart a course and set a direction, giving nonbinding guidance to these entities and persons. It is not intended to establish any binding requirements upon them.

The NP&EDC recognizes that not all of the recommendations in the plan can be implemented under current law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. However, this Community Plan is intended as a long-term plan for the community. Recognizing that the framework of state law is evolving, recommendations that would require changes in state law are included in the hope that at some future date the laws of the state will permit them to be implemented. Indeed, the existence of such recommendations in Nantucket's Comprehensive Community Plan is intended as an expression of support to the General Court for such changes to be made.

It is the hope of the NP&EDC that the Community Plan can become a rallying point for future actions, which will be taken voluntarily by those who share its vision of the future of Nantucket. While its adoption by Special Town Meeting constitutes a formal endorsement by the people of Nantucket of its recommendations, such adoption does not create any legal obligations.

We, the people of Nantucket, in order to enhance our town and provide for ourselves and our posterity, acknowledge the role that diversity of people has in strengthening our community.

We welcome new residents to join our community and affirm in this plan that a goal of our community is to carry out an enduring commitment to not discriminate against any person, whether resident or not, on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, age, sex, sexual orientation or physical disability.