

Minutes of Nantucket Historical Commission Meeting – January 5th, 2021

Establishment of Quorum

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

Guests: Brian Pfeiffer and Mary Bergman

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present.

3.) Public Comment: N/A

4.) Announcements

NHA has a meeting tonight (1.5.21) to display colonial artifacts. They have thousands of items and our Commission is very interested in archaeology. PSA for those interested in attending.

5.) Wilkes Square/Harbor Place Report:

The report was well-received in a presentation to the NP&EDC last week. The report has been sent out, but it will take time for the public and other commissions to digest the information.

Discussion: The Commission would ultimately like to see a zoning study completed for the Downtown area, to demonstrate that CDT zoning does not reflect the current built environment of the majority of the existing historic downtown. CDT allows much more intense development. Additionally, NHC emphasized the importance of updating the Municipal Harbor Plan as a powerful planning tool to guide development and public access in coastal areas. Commission also feels like we should share the report with as many other commissions and organization on Nantucket.

Tom made a motion to accept the report as-is

Angus: Second

All in favor via roll call.

6.) Report on Preserving Historic Pavement on Nantucket

Discussion: The commission discussed ‘next steps’, and how to best roll-out this report so that it is publicly accessible. The Commission strongly endorses the report and hopes that it can be used in Nantucket and other communities across the country as a model for preserving historic pavement. We would also like to see this report electronically available to the public.

We would like to see the DPW apply this recommended methodology to all sidewalk work on Nantucket. Additionally, the NHC has sent this letter to our Select board liaison, Dawn Holdgate in the hopes that the Select board accept the report or offer feedback/comment.

Tom made a motion to publish the report

Angus: Second

All in favor via roll call

List of Commissions and Organizations that we want to share the report with:

DPW, HDC, NPEDC, Coastal Resiliency, Planning Commission, Roads and Rights of Way, Sewer Dept, Commission on Disabilities, Tree Advisory Committee, Sconset Civic Association, PIN, and MHC.

7.) Grant Application:

The MHC has invited the Commission to write a grant, in response to our pre-application. The Commission has elected to conduct a study to create a ‘plan’ for updating all of Nantucket’s surveys. This grant is due February 9th. Tom, Don, and Hillary will work with Brian Pfeiffer and Betsey Tyler to assist Holly in the grant-writing process as well.

Brian: It would be helpful to get a template from MHC for a grant application that has been approved/funded. MHC has consistently set values and prices as to what these types of things typically cost.

8.) NHC’s Year in Review - Goals and Feedback:

The commission used the remainder of the meeting to discuss how the NHC is doing, how we did with our goals, and what we hope to accomplish in the New Year. Rather than formal review, we wanted to discuss the year in review and analyze our effectiveness, strengths, and weaknesses.

2020 NHC Review: What did the Commission Accomplish?

- 1.) Report on Historic Pavement (Standards of Treatment)
- 2.) Milestone Road Project
- 3.) The pre-approval of the grant for updating surveys

Goals for 2021:

1. Survey Plan & Surveys
2. Build public awareness and interest in preservation/Preservation Educational Exhibit
3. Archaeology
4. Update and make BWNiM more easily accessible to the public
5. Engage the community and more importantly, the youth
6. Real Estate Educational Listening Tour

Discussing NHC in 2021:

There is a collective energy around a starting a conversation among all preservationists on Nantucket, old and young, experienced or not. As Angus put it, a ‘Preservation Mixer’ is in

order. Education is paramount in this effort as we need to educate a new generation of preservationists.

How do people view the community and their role in it?

Commissioners will jot down some thoughts, goals and key results to share with the commission over the next few weeks as we plan the NHC's role in the new year.

Tom made a motion to adjourn

Clement: second

All in favor via roll call

~meeting adjourned~