



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

www.nantucket-ma.gov

Committee Members: Denice Kronau (Chair), Joseph T. Grause Jr. (Vice-chair), Jeremy Bloomer
Chris Glowacki, Steve Maury, Peter McEachern Joanna Roche, Peter Schaeffer, Jill Vieth

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube.

Called to order at 4:00 pm by Ms. Kronau

Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Rick Sears, Assistant Town Manager; Mariya Basheva,
Financial Analyst

Attending Members: Kronau, Grause, Bloomer, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer

Absent Members: McEachern, Vieth

Late Arrivals: Roche, 4:03 pm

Early Departures: Bloomer, between 4:50 & 4:58 pm

Documents used: Draft minutes as listed; Citizen Warrant Articles for 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion **Motion to Approve.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 7-0//Grause, Schaeffer, Bloomer, Maury, Glowacki, Roche, and Kronau-aye

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. December 15, 2022

Kronau – Page 3 “afford housing stabilization fund” Ms. Roche’s comment: “the...” should add “of the funds.”

2. January 9, 2023

Motion **Motion to Approve as amended.** (made by: Maury) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 7-0//Grause, Schaeffer, Maury, Bloomer, Glowacki, Roche, and Kronau-aye

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

IV. PUBLIC HEARING AND DISCUSSION OF CITIZEN WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ATM)

1. Bylaw Amendment – Noise, Sponsor Campbell Sutton

Discussion **Sutton** – Pool pumps and heat pumps are very loud and on for 24 hours. The idea is to contain noise in the property from which it emits; if the pool is 30’ from the lot line, that allows someone to enjoy their yard in peace. We need to be more cognizant of people’s health and hearing issues as we look at increased density. This article is on concert with the zoning bylaw amendment for pools.

Schaeffer – Asked if the extra 10’ would make a difference.

Sutton – She believes it will; currently the pool equipment can be in the setback. With the Zoning Article passed in 2018, these articles would facilitate being able to comply.

Schaeffer – Asked if this would be retroactive.

Sutton – She saw this as going forward with properties grandfathered but to be redesigned in an upgrade.

Grause – Asked if there has been any technical research regarding if the equipment exceeds the 55 decibels currently in the bylaws.

Sutton – She believes this is a problem. It’s also a matter of equipment manufacturing guidelines. New pumps have multiple speeds and are quieter than older pumps. The heating boiler makes

significant noise when it fires up and runs, which can be 2-3 times an hour. This noise complaint comes up often at Planning Board meetings. She feels it is the responsibility of the Town to create comfortable living space for its residents.

Gibson – As a citizen, she agrees with Ms. Sutton; with pools in her neighborhood, there is never a quiet moment. Regarding enforcement, there is no way the enforcers would know a property is grandfathered; the police don't keep track of that level of noise; its about how the complaint came in, how it was described, and they do the best they can.

Sutton – Asked if the Town would support provisions for reduction structures or such rather than grandfathering.

Gibson – She'd have to assess that from a TA point of view; there could be a backlash.

Maury – About the wording in the Article, 20' seems like what she's going after – separation between the pool and equipment to the lot line.

Sutton – For the districts this is proposed, the 10' setback already exists. Many pools as set such that the pool-surround is in the setback enhancing the noise to the neighbors.

Maury – If the second section covers the minimum distance, asked if you need to regulate the size of the lot.

Kronau – That question falls under the Planning Board review of articles.

Bloomer – Given the technology that will make these quieter or they can be covered to reduce the sound, it might be simpler to just have a decibel level.

Sutton – She feels that doesn't address the distance; there would still be noise in the neighbor's back yard; property owners should be responsible for their own noise.

Kronau – There is a decibel limit in the article; the change is the distance at which it is measured. Part of the motivation is to bring up the issue of density; it's been brought up twice in this meeting and seems to be a back-door entry to address density.

Sutton – Denied doing that.

Peter Halle – He supports this Article and sent a letter of his comments. He doesn't think it's a density issue but is an encroachment issue. This should lower encroachment by 50%. To him, having these standards makes sense in lessening encroachment across the island.

Schaeffer – Thinks it would make more sense requiring everyone to have a sound barrier around their pool equipment and air-conditioning units (A/C).

Sutton – She doesn't see it that way; this would be easier to enforce. If it's been proven to work, that's great; she doesn't think a fence would do that so options are necessary.

Roche – She wants to know how enforcement would be handled.

Sutton – They do sell decibel meter readers, so one possibility is that when the complaint comes in, the reader would be used to measure the decibel level at 30'. The property owner would become responsible for bringing their equipment into compliance.

Glowacki – Confirmed that the requirement set forth in this Article would be retroactive. Asked who would be responsible for measuring the decibels.

Sutton – In addition to the Police, the Zoning Enforcement Officer could have one.

Discussion about how the decibel level of pool and A/C equipment would be enforced at 30'.

Sutton – She could follow up with Police on how they enforce the decibel bylaw.

Kronau – It would be helpful. To understand the enforcement component before we vote.

Glowacki – Asked if someone could present to us on the practicality of enclosures.

Halle – At the very least if the enforcement issue becomes overwhelming, the Article could to be passed prospectively.

Kronau – We could make it part of the Building Code by requiring all equipment meet a specified decibel level. She will let Ms. Sutton know when this Article is discussed again.

Motion No action at this time.

Roll-call Vote N/A

~~2. Independent HDC Administrator, Diane Coombs~~

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Contract Review Committee: Roche
2. Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee: Roche
3. Our Island Home/Senior Center Committee: Schaeffer
4. Short-term Rental Working Group: Schaeffer
5. Solid Waste: Grause

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023; 4:00 p.m. – BPAC Article HDC administrator, Article amend NP&EDC, and Dark Skies, and review of the county budget. Hybrid
Saturday, January 28, 2023: 8:00 a.m. – Budget review. ZOOM

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Budget Assignments:
 - a. Police, Harbormaster, Emergency Preparedness – Glowacki and Roche
 - b. Fire – Kronau and Schaeffer
 - c. Water – Grause and Vieth
 - d. Airport – Maury and Bloomer
 - e. Sewer – Vieth and Boomer
 - f. General Fund – All
 - g. Department Public Work – Gowacki and Kronau
 - h. Solid Waste – Grause and Roche
 - i. Our Island Home – Kronau and Schaeffer
2. Bloomer – Saw a news article that turbo-charged e-bikes are banned in Amsterdam. Confirmed that gas-powered leaf blowers are banned from commercial use.
Schaeffer – “turbo-charged” is the highest level of e-bike
3. Adjournment

Motion **Motion to Adjourn at 5:06 pm.** (made by: Glowacki) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 7-0//Grause, Schaeffer, Roche, Bloomer, Maury, Glowacki, and Kronau-aye

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton