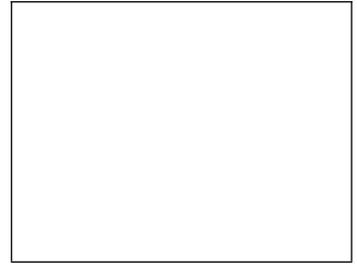




# MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: \_\_8:02am \_\_

MEETING DATE: \_\_February 9\_\_ Time Meeting Adjourned: \_\_8:53am\_\_

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Janet Schulte, Director of Culture and Tourism, David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator, Josh Gray, Chair, Thayer Hale, Liz Holland, Karen Macumber, Mary Malavase, Peter Morrison and Sharon Quigley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Amy Baxter, Maureen Coleman and Marina DzvoniK

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>VOTES / ROLL CALL</b>
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<b>1 Welcome VSAC Members</b>	Chairman Gray welcomed the members of the committee to meeting singling out Liz Holland who has joined filling out Gene Mahon’s term. The meeting is held by Zoom video conference due to the COVID-19 outbreak. He then asked for a roll call of all members present. Chairman Gray then reviewed Governor Baker’s orders from March 12 suspending certain Open Meeting Law provisions in order to meet electronically instead of in person during the pandemic. Josh also reviewed the ground rules and script for remotely conducted open meetings via Zoom.	
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<b>2 Approval of Minutes from December 8</b>	The minutes from December were unanimously approved.	5-0
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<b>3 Conversation with Town Staff about Planning for Summer 2021</b>	Janet introduced Amy Baxter, Licensing Administrator and Marina DzvoniK, Events Coordinator. Amy reviewed what happened during the summer of 2020 in which in an ad hoc manner certain streets and sidewalks were closed off to traffic so that restaurants could serve outdoors as Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 restrictions required limited indoor seating capacity and spacing of 6 feet between tables. These street/ sidewalk closures didn’t happen until June and July. She expects that the closures will be allowed again this year and that the paperwork required to do so has been eliminated making a smoother transition this year. There are more resources available including extra staff and financing, notably the creation of an Economic Task Force in January. Janet and Karen are members. In addition to allowing restaurants to serve outdoors, Amy noted that there have been requests from Theatre Workshop, White Heron Theatre and others to use the lawn and stage at Children’s Beach and other outdoor locations for outdoor performances as indoor capacity restrictions may still be in place this summer. Amy also reported that the Town of Nantucket will start holding public hearings in March with the idea that those restaurants that have annual licenses that start in April can open and start serving outdoors earlier than last year. Janet reported that Bess Clarke of The Nantucket Looms observed that open restaurants seem to draw more people to the area which also helps the nearby stores and shops. Another ad hoc situation last year was the creation and placement of 8 Curbside Pick Up signs. The signage was similar to the timed parking signs. Mary suggested to make them a different color. Chairman Gray noted that downtown parking and traffic patterns worked out well last year despite certain street closures, he expressed concern if that will continue given the new that car reservations on the Steamship Authority ferry are up over last year. It was suggested to use electronic	
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messaging signs to alert drivers in the area. The Town will also revamp its website with regard to Covid-19 info and also will create informational programming on NCTV-18.

Amy Baxter, Maureen Coleman and Marina Dzvonic disconnected at 8:39am

**5 Director's Report**

Janet reported that the Economic Task Force which includes her, Karen Macumber and 7 others has been meeting weekly since January. The task force has 3 sub groups. The Task Force is preparing a \$180,000 grant proposal to help fund island businesses economic recovery. They have also been partnered with the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce and the Dukes County manager. The Nantucket Chamber will manage and disperse the monies if the grant is received.

Janet also reported that she is working on a grant for the Massachusetts Cultural Council to help island non-profits develop virtual environments/ programming.

The Director noted that she is also working with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and the Blue Economy program. An educational panel has been approved by The Historic District Commission and Park and Recreation Commission for installation at Children's Beach. Other panels are being placed around Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod and the South Coast.

This year's One Book One Island reading is "The Yellow House" by Sarah Broom.

Janet reported that the Cultural Council recently gave out \$10,000 in grants.

Janet has joined a small task force in collaboration with the Museum of African American History in Boston to create a memorial at an Angola Street park recognizing a runaway slave, Arthur Cooper. The Historic Commission will install a plaque. There will be programming for that in August or September.

This Year's Cultural Legacy programming will focus on sponsoring monthly lectures by the African American Museum of Boston/ African Meeting House. The lectures start February 18 and will run thru September.

Janet reported that she has been working with the Cultural District Work Group which has 3 sub groups: Mission, Marketing and robust Calendar. Janet will meet with Al and Mary Novissimo to work on revising the online Cultural Calendar.

The Hospital Community Health Initiative program has \$1 million of \$5 million left and they might fund some feasibility studies.

Janet and David have also been attending the Chamber's Events Committee on a monthly basis.

**6 Visitor Services Coordinator's Report**

David reported on the December statistics, total numbers for 2021 compared to other years and reviewed the January statistics highlighting the continued popularity of the online Restaurant List. He also showed the committee the 2020 Travel and Lodging brochure with the Flowcode sticker on the cover that when scanned by a mobile phone camera it will take the viewer to the online version of the 2021 T&L guide.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_