

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS
Notes of meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, July 11, 2020 via Zoom

1. Attending members: Kathy Baird, Lou Bassano, Gary Beller, Bill Gardner, Don Greene, Peter Halle and Peter Kahn; Town Manager Libby Gibson was our guest speaker and attending guests were Bob Middleton and Scott Wilson. Members absent: Howard Blitman, Bill Sherman,
2. Chair Don Greene opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., declaring a quorum present and read the script for Zoom meetings provided by the town. Proposed minutes for the August 17, 2019 and June 20, 2020 meetings were approved.
3. Libby Gibson provided a detailed update on town activities including currently pending and recently completed projects. She provided statistics on the pared down Annual Town Meeting (ATM) which had been postponed from April 4 to June 25 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that only 30 budget-essential articles were called out of the 117 in the warrant and that budget amendments were also passed as a result. There were 7 ballot questions decided on the June 16 election that had been postponed from April 14, thus reversing the usual order of events (ATM first, then the ballot). Electronic voting was used at the ATM and worked well but it the set-up required is extensive and more complex when multiple venues are used to ensure social distancing. The town is now considering the issues involved (e.g. conflict with national elections) and the appropriate format for a special fall town meeting to deal with the non-budget articles and record number of citizens articles that were not called at the ATM.
4. Libby shared that many town projects (e.g. downtown sidewalk restoration, sewers) and on-going planning (e.g. Master Plan, Parks, Water Quality, Coastal Resiliency Storm Water, Ponds), were put on hold during the pandemic but are back in process. She noted that the Milestone Rotary upgrade will go forward as a state-run project but the town will be handling the necessary property acquisition. There is a new consultant working with the town on Madaket water quality and it appears the best option is still sewerage. Fertilizer ordinances continue to be enforced.
5. On the topic of Affordable Housing, Libby noted that all ongoing litigation had been completed on the 6 Fairgrounds Road project so it is moving forward and all town unions are in collective bargaining. The town's cable TV license has been renewed and the

Single Use Plastic Ban that was to go into effect 1 June was relaxed due to supply issues and is expected to go into effect at the end of July instead. Enforcement will focus more on education than fines.

6. Libby stated that the new tank farm is in full operation and the removal of the old one is beginning so ideas and funding sources for infrastructure to improve traffic flow downtown in that area are under discussion. The fire department has completed its relocation to the Safety Complex and the town is moving some staff into the former fire department building. Libby noted that removal of the temporary trailer located at the old fire department location was a COVID-related pause and the trailers will soon be installed correctly for use as meeting space.
7. Libby stated that the work on the Harbormaster building will start soon and span the summer and work on the Town Pier is also back on track. She then noted staffing changes including the hiring of an Interim Island Home Administrator and second Assistant Town Manager along with school administration positions being filled.
8. Libby noted that work on the town's update to the Strategic Plan (which can be found on the town's website) has 5 focus areas: Housing, Transportation, Environmental Leadership, Efficient Town Operations and Quality of Life. Work continues to consider all the options available for replacement of Island Home and the Senior Center. Well testing is on-going for airport-area wells as PFAS pollution from fire foam is a serious concern and on-going monitoring and is warranted. Due diligence regarding the COVID-19 pandemic on the island is a relentless effort to ensure safety of citizens, town staff, essential workers and tourists.
9. Libby mentioned a potential partnership with outside entities to hold a community forum on racial equity.
10. A Q&A session with Libby covered topics such as the roundabout study, the Town Government Study Committee (were international governance models under consideration?) and concerns about the comfort levels on NRTA/WAVE buses possibly impacting ridership. Concerns were raised about fire at the new tank farm since there are no hydrants at the new location. Downtown parking was discussed with an idea floated to add a surcharge on the ferry for off-island vehicles coming to the island to assist in funding a parking facility/solution. Libby noted that license plate readers were being used to streamline enforcement of current downtown parking regulations. The Naushop development was discussed and a request

for an update to the visitor count (during the pandemic) was requested from Libby. An update on the African Meeting House hate crime was requested and Libby noted that it was still in the hands of the District Attorney's office. There was a question on the re-opening of schools in the fall and whether seasonal residents were deciding to stay and enroll their children on-island. Libby said she was not aware of any impactful increase in fall enrollment and stated that 3 models were being considered (100% virtual, blended, and 100% in-person) and whatever model was chosen, it would be statewide. A question was asked about the COVID-19 results in sewage analysis and Libby noted this would be explained at the Select Board meeting on Wednesday July 15 at 5PM and she would send a Zoom link to it for anyone who was interested. ACNVT shared a request to be able to continue Zoom meetings, especially for our committee, who by definition, are not always on-island. Concerns about noise restriction regulations not adequately covering construction/landscaping equipment and amplified noise was raised and Libby agreed to send out a copy of the current regulations. Questions about reconsideration of traffic roundabouts were voiced. The group thanked Libby for her work and update on town issues to our committee.

11. After a short discussion, it was agreed that rotation of leadership among members (e.g., 2 year term as Chair with the Vice Chair moving into the Chair position) was desirable and after nominations and a roll call, the following members were elected: Gary Beller – Chair; Peter Halle - Vice-Chair and Kathy Baird – Secretary.
12. Future speakers at ACNVT meetings were discussed and it was moved and roll call approved to invite Tucker Holland (Municipal Housing Director) for 8/8, Roberto Santamaria (Department of Public Health) for 7/25 and the Finance Committee (Libby suggested and will put us in contact with Brian Turbitt and Denice Kronau). Kathy agreed to contact them and confirm meeting dates. Gary agreed to contact John Brescher (Chair, Town Government Study Committee) who had not yet responded to our invitation to speak. Gary requested that up to 3 issues/topics for our next meeting be sent to him by members via email.
13. A motion was made and roll call approved to thank Don Greene for all of his work as Chair of ACNVT.
14. Kathy asked the committee if the previously circulated Annual Report for ACNVT for fiscal year 2020 was acceptable. The

consensus was yes and that no official roll call was required so it could be submitted to the town as is.

15. Discussion of programs for future meetings include:

- Update on Harbor Place and related transportation issues
- Update on paid in-town parking, demand management parking
- Funding of transportation upgrades
- Affordable housing, including use of \$20M fund, Richmond Group project off Old South Road, Surfside Crossing 40B project, safe harbor status
- National Grid's proposed enhanced L8 power line from in-town power station to Milestone Rotary
- Status of Town alternative energy and energy efficiency initiatives and National Grid response regarding delaying or foregoing third seabed power cable from the mainland (with Lauren Sinatra), also Nantucket PowerChoice
- Continuing updates on recommendations of TGSC for charter, other Town government changes
- Reporting of CRAC findings, recommendations

16. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Baird, Secretary

The following is the url for the recording of this meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGUHxDcTnpc&t=1654s>