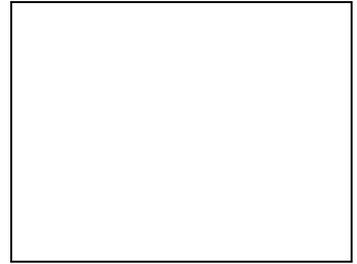




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: __8:03am__

MEETING DATE: __July 13__ Time Meeting Adjourned: __9:00am__

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

ALSO PRESENT: Libby Gibson, Town Manager, Sarah Bois

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	VOTES / ROLL CALL
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1 Welcome VSAC Members	Janet Schulte welcomed the members of the committee to meeting. The meeting is held by Zoom video conference due to the COVID-19 outbreak. She then asked for a roll call of all members present. Director Schulte then reviewed Governor Baker’s orders from March 12, 2020 suspending certain Open Meeting Law provisions in order to meet electronically instead of in person during the pandemic. Josh and Janet also reviewed the ground rules and script for remotely conducted open meetings via Zoom.	
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2 Introduction of Candidates for VSAC membership	Janet welcomed Sarah Bois who has been nominated to join the committee. The other candidate, Matthew Peel was unable to attend.	
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3 Discussion About Future Scheduling of Large Island Events and their Impacts on Town Resources	Town Manager Libby Gibson presented the committee with concerns about the impact of large events including the Boston Pops and the July 4 th Fireworks, the Main Street Water Fight, Daffodil Festival and Christmas Stroll Weekends. She noted that the Select Board is concerned that these events and others of similar size are taxing the Town of Nantucket’s personnel resources. She cited that in the current anti-police climate, there are fewer people applying to become summer Community Service Officers and the year round police department is short staffed. Libby noted that the annual Boston Pops concert on Jetties Beach has grown larger and larger in size. It takes at least 35 people to manage the event. Set up on the beach begins the day before. The intersections of the roads leading to event must be manned and barricaded and would not be as effective if it were staffed by volunteers. There is an emergency plan in place for this and other events including the July 4 th fireworks and Triathlon but has never been tested. In general. Libby asked the committee to draw up some recommendations by August 4 th for the Select Board to consider at an upcoming workshop on August 10.	
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The Committee and the Town Manager then discussed other summer issues including public drunkenness on the rise, ambulance calls are up, there is more trash, unauthorized display of merchandise outside stores and outdoor dining problems. The Select Board will be reviewing outdoor dining which had been allowed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during the Coronavirus pandemic and has been extended to the end of the year even after the state of emergency was lifted. The intent is to allow diners to eat outside while maintaining posted capacity of the restaurant inside and out. Cambridge Street between South Water and Easy Streets was reopened in order to relieve pressure on traffic trying to get the Steamship car ferry. Another concern was the number of tables set up on the Main Street sidewalk outside Lemon Press and the ability for people to pass thru.

Libby disconnected at 8:33am.

After the Town Manager signed off, the committee discussed possible solutions including splitting big events into two days or more with activities that would draw smaller crowds.

8:48am Jason Graziadei signed on.

The committee considered the Boston Pops concert and what the overall financial goal. Could there be a way to help the hospital reach that goal without having a large fundraising event take place? Chairman Gray recommended that the Police and Fire Chiefs be invited to an upcoming follow up meeting and members of the Nantucket lodging Association attend a similar meeting in the next week or two.

The next Visitor Services Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 20th.

Signature _____