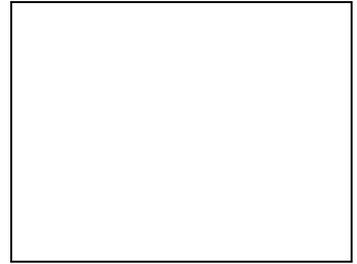




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: 8:03am

MEETING DATE: July 20 Time Meeting Adjourned: 9:00am

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jamie Holmes, President, Nantucket Lodging Association, Carol Andersson, Chris Glowacki, Eric Landt and Bettina Landt

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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3 Continuation of Discussion About Future Scheduling of Large Island Events and their Impacts on Town Resources	Janet gave a summary to the participants who were not at last week’s meeting with the committee and Town Manager Libby Gibson. Libby would like the committee to provide advice to the Select Board for their workshop on August 10 when they will discuss the impact of large events including the Boston Pops, Fourth of July Fireworks and other large events on Town personnel and other Town resources for an extended time frame.	
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NLA President, Jamie Holmes, observed that 2021 has been the best year for lodging but with less staff and that this staff shortage and the greater presence of visitors on the island will not continue in its present form. He added that he would hate to limit events but has to be sensitive to the concerns of Town public safety personnel. The Chamber of Commerce’s Daffodil Festival and Christmas Stroll Weekends are great for marketing the island and other towns want to copy these events that draw people. Janet explained that there are labor issues within public safety and that most of the personnel are unionized and can only work so many hours. She added that the current atmosphere, police jobs are not very popular and that has impacted the number of Community Service Officers helping during the summer. Janet also noted that there have been problems with public drunkenness at both Daffodil and Stroll events.

8:20am Sarah Bois disconnected.

The committee and the members of the lodging association continued to discuss the issue and offered some suggestions/ solutions. They included moving some of the events to the shoulder season months, hire retired police and other public safety people to assist and ensure that large events have their own security that will stay

late after the event has concluded to ensure that all the crowd has left the location. It was noted that the Nantucket Cottage Hospital has private security for the Boston Pops and also coordinates with local event planners. It was also suggested that the Boston Pops be split into smaller concerts having a less formal concert earlier in the day for the general public featuring local musicians and then having the main concert in the evening with large donors mainly in attendance. In addition, raise the general ticket price so that the hospital still receives the same money but have less people in order to avoid the strain on town personnel resources.

The committee will meet with public safety officials next Tuesday, July 27 and make these and other recommendations. Janet will send the special events permitting application for the committee to review.

Signature _____