

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of July 27, 2022. The meeting took place at the Meeting Trailer at 131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket, Massachusetts. Members of the Board present were Matt Fee, Melissa Murphy, Dawn Holdgate, and Jason Bridges. Brooke Mohr joined the meeting remotely via Zoom. Also present were Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson and Assistant Town Managers Gregg Tivnan and Rick Sears. Janet Schulte, and Julie Gieseke from Raftelis were present remotely via Zoom.

Chair Bridges read a prepared statement as to how the meeting would be conducted via remote participation and the ground rules for any discussion and called roll for those present.

Chair Bridges called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM.

I. GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

Julia Novak of Raftelis, facilitator for the meeting, introduced the items for the workshop and asked the Board members to review expectations for the day:

Chair Bridges said he likes the opportunity to have an informal discussion about on-boarding Board members and communications between Board members; hearing from the members about what they expect from the Chair.

Ms. Murphy said she would like to discuss divisiveness in the community and how to navigate it; and, why it exists and how to “stay the course”.

Ms. Mohr said she hopes to gain a better understanding of what resources the Board has and how to expand them if needed to meet community expectations. She agreed with Ms. Murphy about how to respond to “passion” in the community. She added that there is a “bigger picture” and she hopes to discuss how to respond to people about that.

Ms. Gibson spoke on her expectations, agreeing that community divisiveness is an issue. She said more and more has been tasked to Town Administration and it has become more and more complex and difficult to manage the day-to-day plus, new responsibilities and strategic projects and obtaining the necessary resources to accomplish expectations.

Mr. Sears said it seems there is an undefined “day to day” program for the Town and it is “massive”. He said understanding needs to be given to what resources are required to run that. He said the pace is unmanageable between Select Board Strategic Plan and public expectations.

Mr. Tivnan agreed with Ms. Gibson and Mr. Sears, noting that resource management is an issue, between strategic advancements and the day-to-day operations. He noted that even just one issue can throw everything off.

Mr. Fee said he wants more priorities to be addressed and set. He said he feels more attention needs to be given to growth on the Island and its impacts on infrastructure, taxes, quality of life. He spoke on giving more priority to planning and zoning. He said his top priority is housing.

Ms. Holdgate agreed with much of what has been said. She said the community gets polarized with misinformation, social media and the Board needs to get through that and focus on what its priorities and goals are.

Ms. Novak continued with a presentation as attached in the agenda materials. Discussion followed on various topics brought forward in the presentation, including managing expectations, how to improve Town communications with the community on a proactive level, resource needs, policy setting, priority setting, existing plans and management of them and their associated projects, internal and external disruptions and challenges to day-to-day municipal administration, community acceptance of ideas intended to improve quality of life and how to better engage in compromise and negotiation toward outcomes, and Nantucket's form of government. Ms. Novak reviewed a "spectrum of public participation" as outlined in the presentation materials, which is a process that contains a number of steps designed to involve and engage the public, with a goal of leading to more informed decision making and collaboration. Some discussion followed. Ms. Novak reviewed the characteristics of politics vs administration, with associated discussion as to public perceptions and pressure and how those should or should not impact decisions made by the Board.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Murphy moved adjournment at 11:55 PM; seconded by Ms. Mohr. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Mr. Fee - Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes.

Approved the 3rd day of August 2022.

**SELECT BOARD
JULY 27, 2022 – 8:30 AM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- I. Memo from Julia Novak/Raftelis re: Governance Retreat; “Bridging the Gap” handout