

Siasconset Civic Association Member Meeting
July 8, 2020
Held via Zoom

The meeting began at 6pm with Gail Walker serving as Zoom administrator.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Martha Polachi

- This spring, Martha noticed that a much smaller flag was flying on the rotary flagpole. She requested that the DPW reinstall the larger cotton flag.
- Over the winter the wood tables at Larsen Park were sealed by Amy Manning. We also received a bid from her for landscaping in Larsen Park. We are now waiting on permission from the Conservation Foundation.
- We requested water refilling stations but were told by the Town that they will not be installing any for now because of financial constraints due to COVID-19
- The DPW delivered trash bin enclosures for the beach, but not yet for Larsen Park.
- Porta potties were not installed this year at the beach because of COVID-19 restrictions.
- The Fire Station steps will be fixed if DPW can find the money. The Board is considering donating money for the step repairs if they can't.

- Martha had a few public service announcements as well:
 - Please complete your census forms. You must complete them whether you are a year-round resident or seasonal.
 - Please continue to wear masks in the Historic District of Sconset. We can lead by example by wearing our masks at all times.
 - Claudette's, The Chanticleer, and the Sconset Cafe all have options for takeout.
 - The Bartlett truck's is in Sconset on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Island Kitchen Food truck now visits Sconset as well.
 - Please consider volunteering at the Nantucket Food Bank. They have a shortage of volunteers at the moment. They are following all of the suggested COVID-19 guidelines.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Gene Hilzenrath

Gene began by thanking the Board and members. His term as Treasurer ends this summer and this will be his last report to membership. He reported that as of July 8, 272

household memberships had paid dues this calendar year. He asked that all members pay their dues promptly. Dues can be paid online through our website (www.siasconsetcivicasassociation.org), mailing a check to (P.O. Box 360, Siasconset, MA 02564), or dropping off a check at 15 Burnell Street in Sconset. Our budgeted income for 2020 is \$18,900.00 and our budgeted expenses are \$26,201.00. The expense number is a conservative estimate that takes into account past expenses. However, we don't foresee the same expenses this summer as we will not be hosting an annual BBQ, bike safety day, and other events that we traditionally organize, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT by Mary Will

Mary reported that, pursuant to our Bylaws, the Board selected new officers and board members because having an in-person meeting of members to hold elections wasn't possible. The new officers are as follows:

President - **Lynn Filipski**
Vice President - **Gail Walker**
Secretary - **Maggie Boone**
Treasurer - **Wendy Holding**

New directors are **Dr. William Druckemiller, Robert Franklin, and John Shea**. Continuing on as directors are **Cindy Nelson, Maxwell Mundy, and Whitney Schrauth**,

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT by Mary Will

Mary reported that the Scholarship Committee meets annually to review candidates for the \$2,500 scholarship. The candidate must live in Sconset and have plans to continue their education beyond high school. **Jessica Bechtold** is this year's recipient. She is a graduate of Nantucket High School who has a great record and is very active in community service. She will be attending Norwich University in Vermont in the fall.

CLEAN TEAM REPORT by Whitney Schrauth

Whitney reported that we had lots of success with our Clean Team initiative last summer and that we plan to continue it this year, but without group meet-ups because of COVID-19. Instead, all members who are on island are encouraged to participate in a community wide clean-up on the third Saturday of each month between the hours of

8am and 11am -- with household members cleaning up on their own. Supplies (trash bags, plastic gloves, and "grippers") will be available for pick-up for those who need them. Details will be provided in an email to members and also posted on our website.

NEW BUSINESS

Josh Posner and Helmut Weymar asks to speak about the bluff stabilization project. The request to expand the geotube that was installed seven years ago is still the subject of litigation. A negotiated settlement is being considered at this point.

Questions that were presented to the Board prior to the meeting and that were asked via the chat platform on Zoom were then addressed. The general concerns raised by members were related to landscaping, speeding, parking at the rotary, parking at the beach as well as the playground, bike safety, and road repair work.

- Hedge height at intersections needs to be no taller than 3 feet.
- Landscaping noise is definitely an issue. We encourage everyone to ask their landscapers to invest in electric trimmers that make significantly less noise than the gas powered alternative.
- Rotary parking has become an issue. There is not enough parking to accommodate everyone. The Board will continue to discuss this at a later meeting.
- We need to address some infrastructure issues including potholes. Homeowners should be in touch with the Town about any needed repairs of public roads.
- There was a concern expressed about the Front Street grass strip and the general scenic look of the street.
- There are concerns about homeowners placing rocks and stakes outside of their hedges/landscaping to deter parking. We would like to remind our neighbors that that grass strip is Town property when the road in question is a public road. Please remove them. Firetrucks and emergency responders need to be able to get by safely. [We've added information to our website about this, including a link to the Town's Encroachment Policy: <https://www.siasconsetcivicasassociation.org/Safety-Matters.>]
- Please remember that the speed limit throughout the village is 25 mph. Be aware of our cyclists.

- All cyclists under the age of 16 are required to wear helmets.

Bob Felch asks to speak about the fund for Jeorgia Fowler, our postmistress, and the effort to find housing for her family. The Nantucket Dreamland Foundation has given her an 11-month lease for one of their staff apartments. Temporary housing was provided by two Sconset families while she waits for the apartment to be completed. Jeorgia is still in need of financial help to offset the cost of rent for the new apartment. The Dreamland apartment is \$2,200 a month. To date, \$8,500 has been raised but more is needed. If you would like to contribute, please mail a check made out to the Nantucket Dreamland Foundation to Bob Felch at P.O. Box 339 in Sconset.

Outgoing board members were then thanked for their contributions and continued support. They are: **Cathy Bowman**, **Snooky Eldridge** (our resident historian), **Gene Hilzenrath** (our outgoing Treasurer), **C.O. North** (our outgoing Assistant Treasurer and a contributing author of our new bylaws), and **Mary Will** (who has served as Secretary, Nominating Committee Chair, and Scholarship Fund Chair).

Finally, **Lynn Filipski**, President-elect, said how fortunate we are to have had **Martha Polachi** on the Board for the past 12 years and past 5 years as our President. She has made so many important contributions to the village including: the new flagpole, the children's playground, the beach bathrooms and trash receptacles, and improvements to Larsen Park. Larsen Park is now a beautiful, peaceful and pleasant space where families and friends can enjoy each other's company. Martha is a full-time resident and we have relied on her to keep her ear to the ground. She has been our direct contact with government officials. Her dedication and commitment will be hard to replicate. We regret that we cannot celebrate Martha at the Casino with cocktails and snacks. In lieu of that, Lynn presented Martha with a Simon Pearce glass bowl to express the Board's gratitude and everyone on the Zoom call was unmuted so they could give Martha a round of applause.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Boone
Secretary