

Siasconset Civic Association
Annual Meeting
July 11, 2018

Board Members present:

M. Boone, D. Boyce, M. Donato, N. Eldridge, L. Filipski, J. Greene, R. Grubbs, E. Hilzenrath, T. M. Mundy, C. O. North, M. Polachi, S. Ried, W. Schrauth, K. Starrett, G. Walker, and M. Will, who took the minutes.

Martha Polachi, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and presented the minutes from last year's meeting for approval. She introduced the Board Members present.

Ms. Polachi read the 2017-18 Necrology, asking for a moment of silence for all those departed since last year's annual Civic Association meeting, including those whose names had not been catalogued and read.

Gene Hilzenrath, Treasurer, briefed the assemblage on the healthy financial shape of the Civic Association and indicated copies of the current financials are available. Noting that annual household dues of \$40 didn't quite cover expenses this past year, donations in addition to dues supplement and help the Civic Association increase program funding. The President is in the enviable position of having money to expend and will detail some of the Board's plans subsequently.

Gail Walker reported that membership, updated online, stood at 202 households prior to tonight's meeting. With 80 renewals pending, should all renew, 2018 membership would be substantially increased over prior years. Ms. Walker noted the availability of opting into an online sustaining membership, using PayPal. She also encouraged members to frequent the Civic Association's website to stay up-to-date on 'Sconset news.

Lynn Filipski explained the Civic Association-sponsored bike safety day program, to be held on Wednesday, July 25. Kids and adults are invited to participate: have bike helmets checked for fit and safety, run the safety obstacle course, receive bike bells for course completion, ice cream and goody bags. Officer Mansfield will bring Moby the drug sniffer to entertain the kids. The Civic Association's website will have pictures and introductions of the 2018 summer bike cops, whose role is to promote safety in the village.

Ms. Polachi gave the President's Report, beginning with a brief update on proposed changes to the Cannonbury Lane subdivision plan (originally drawn up in the 1970's.) The original developer is selling the remaining 34 lots to another developer who began work this Spring with the Planning Board to permit a change to the original plan in which one of the remaining unimproved lots would become home to a Clubhouse for residents to use for recreational and community purposes. Current homeowners, concerned a community pool would destroy the tranquility of the neighborhood, opposed early plans

sent to the Planning Board; lawyers argued for the developer and two groupings of abutters. In the end, the developer has withdrawn plans for a community pool but seems to have permission to offer, as an amenity to members of his homeowners association, a building which will house community space and a yoga studio. The Civic Association has monitored and voiced concerns over the changes proposed to the 1970's subdivision plan.

With the completion of flagpole and Rotary restorations this Spring, 'Sconseters have had two opportunities to "rededicate the flagpole" and celebrate the excellent work of the Department of Public Works. After five long years, the team headed by Rob McNeil, DPW director, with generous funding from the Town of Nantucket and the Community Preservation Council (CPC), completed work in time to raise the flag high for the annual Daffodil Parade of antique cars to 'Sconset. Ceremonies in which people congregated around the flagpole and Rotary for speeches, flag raising and National Anthem singing took place on April 28 and again on July 4, 2018. At the summer rededication, representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented a flag that will serve as the winter flag (flown seasonally from the jackstaff that replaces the higher pole used "in season"). The Civic Association Board gave an original painting, by member Susan Ried, of the flagpole and Rotary to Rob McNeill and the DPW in appreciation for their work.

Ms. Polachi announced the formation of new committees to address village concerns. Going forward a Clean Team for 'Sconset will mobilize groups of volunteers to pick up litter left behind on our streets, beaches and paths. Another group will study ways to promote the Dark Skies initiative to curtail further light pollution.

Stay tuned for future restoration and refurbishment efforts to the village bulletin board, Larsen Park and its environs, and the Codfish Park Playground (trash receptacles, shade provision, and portable restroom facilities). These projects will involve consensus building, planning and funding efforts with the Town, the DPW, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and The Land Bank, all stakeholders, and therefore could take considerable time to implement.

Guest speaker of the evening, Stephen Murphy, Fire Chief, was introduced and addressed restoration work being done to the 'Sconset fire station (currently an unmanned station housing one fire engine and one tanker) as well as call response and staffing considerations as these relate to the 'Sconset Station. Though new to the Chief's position, Murphy, a Nantucket native, has worked for the Town since 1987. He characterized his 25 full time fire fighters as a busy crew. In comparison with fire departments on the Cape, Nantucket's would be among the ten most active. 'Sconset calls account for 12% of the total volume the department answers, but Calls have increased by 60% in the last two years. Chief Murphy, speaking of current efforts to restore the 'Sconset fire station, credited long-time call fireman Nelson Eldridge (Snooky) with getting CPC funding to begin the vital work. Murphy went on to say that he has funding this year to study what upgrades could be done to transform the station from a glorified garage into a fire house with 24-hour staffing. After necessary painting

and repairs are completed, he wants to be able to deploy men to the station as call need/demand dictates. Responding to the President's inquiry, Murphy said staffing the 'Sconset Firehouse would require 8 additional firefighters on staff.

Responding to a question regarding the recent bike fatality at Barnard Valley Road, the Chief noted that his service had responded to six calls alone this evening, no details of which could he share.

Asking for any New Business members wanted addressed, Ms. Polachi allowed the following calendar reminders to be noted: the 'Sconset Trust Gala on Sunday, July 22; the Nantucket Garden Club 'Sconset House Tour; August 8, (a benefit to fund high school scholarships) and 'Sconset History Night on Monday, August 13 (topic of discussion is the 'Sconset School).

Robin Ried commended the Civic Association Board for their work and encouraged us to study Dark Skies initiatives. She noted that the Town ordinances already address these issues. Nic Platt offered his expertise on this issue and discussed national standards for lighting, Susan Ried noted that Chapter 102 of the Nantucket Code addresses proper house and street lights. Marcus Silverstein is the Town's lighting enforcement officer.

Robin Ried further expressed concerns that Morey Lane traffic will increase with further Cannonbury Lane development.

Julia Hobart asked about Everett Street and its many potholes. If it were a public road, one would contact the DPW concerning maintenance. As a private road, however, abutters must provide the maintenance. Gail Walker suggested a Go Fund Me campaign could be a source of funding for private roads maintenance.

In the good news department, Maxwell Mundy noted Linda Holland's request to lower privet hedges at last year's meeting had resonated and the restored vistas we are seeing this year are gratifying.

Joe Arvay raised the issue of hedge trimming noise. What can be done to mitigate this as well as construction noise and that of trash collectors? Village quiet hours are 10 pm to 7 am. It was noted that a shortage of seasonal workers, due in part to reduced numbers of visas, mean work crews are having to work longer hours to keep up with work demand. All daylight hours are being used to get jobs done.

Phil Nowak asked for the Civic Association to provide reasonable hourly guidelines for noise and light usage.

The following safety reminders were shared:

- Drive slowly in the village, even going less than the enforceable 25 mph.
- Mark your house with its number to save your life. (From 1st Responder, N. Eldridge)

Ms. Polachi adjourned the meeting at 7 pm thanking the Nelsons for providing confections and inviting members to socialize and enjoy the beverages, wine, cheese and confections offered at the back before returning home.

Wine bar opened along with snacks.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lathrop Will
Secretary