



SIASCONSET BEACH PRESERVATION FUND UPDATE

SBPF notified the Town that they are unable to continue financing the geotube project and have begun planning how the geotubes would be removed to comply with the Conservation Commission's order. SBPF's engineering consultant Haley & Aldrich submitted a plan to remove the 852 feet of tubes that run from 87 to 105 Baxter Road, starting in June from the top tier. Without the geotubes and the storm drains that reduce washouts of the slope face from rain and runoff, the engineers caution that removal will "immediately endanger structures and Baxter Road infrastructure located above the bluff." Recommendations include that no work be performed until two homes on the edge of the bluff be removed. Discussions continue between the Conservation Commission and the Select Board on potential plans for the bluff and the geotubes.

SHORT TERM RENTAL WORKING GROUP

The ten-member working group has been meeting since last summer to tackle the issue of short-term rentals defined as less than 31 days but more than 14 days (town code 123-4). The group is analyzing the impact of STRs on Nantucket and the history of seasonal rentals to form guidelines. The issue is filled with complications: who can rent; how to treat seasonal versus full-time owners, what impact do investors of multiple properties have; where should rental properties be located; and how to fairly apply the rules. In 'Sconset alone, there are 52 rentals listed on VRBO and 127 listed by Great Point so this issue affects the village like the rest of the island.

At the Nantucket Annual Town Meeting, warrant article 60 that sought to restrict short-term vacation rentals was defeated. This issue was discussed at length and its impact on affordable year-round rentals. However, most voters argued that the STR group should be given the time to present their proposal.

Although unable to meet the deadlines for the Annual Town Meeting, the STR group's final proposal will be discussed at a Special Town Meeting on November 7. Meetings in June and July will include input from the Finance Committee, the Select and Planning Boards. By August 24, a proposed warrant article will be published in the Inquirer and Mirror before public hearings by the Finance Committee are held in September. The warrant will be in final form by October 4 after the Select Board reviews all comments.



OUTDOOR LIGHTING WARRANT PASSED

Thanks to the hard work of 'Sconset resident Gail Walker, the voters approved at the Annual Town Meeting new lighting regulations that adopted best practices for outdoor lighting. Remember light affects migration, mating, foraging, pollination and hunting habits for insects, birds, reptiles and mammals. Residential lights contribute 10-20% of light pollution according to experts so check your own outdoor lighting to see if you comply with the new bylaw. Look forward to seeing thousands of stars at night!

BLUFF WALK

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful but very narrow path that was deeded to the Town by William Flagg over 125 years ago. The ocean views along the bluff are treasured but erosion has shortened the path from its original lighthouse destination.

Over recent years, it has become more of a congested highway rather than a simple path for contemplative walkers. After several meetings with the Roads and Right of Way Committee communicating our concerns, new signage reminding visitors and residents of the rules to follow when walking the path have been proposed and discussed. A QR code giving the history of the area can be included. An application to the Sign Advisory Council is currently being written.

The path is open from 7:30am to early dusk for pedestrians. Leashed dogs are welcome but owners must pick up after their dog. The views are best enjoyed without your cell phone conversations or music. Be mindful of the poison ivy and ticks that populate the area and exit only at designated pathways. Let's be respectful of this special resource.

NEW POOL REGULATIONS

With over 100 pools in 'Sconset, please remember the environmentally correct ways of discharging pool water. Check that chlorine levels in discharge and filter backwash are between 6.5 and 8.5 pH, the normal pH for surface or ground water, before doing any work. That means pools should be dechlorinated at least 48 hours before any draining. If your pool is acid-cleaned or cleaned by water pressure, test the water to make sure the pH is at the acceptable range before draining. Pool water and backwash should be drained on your grassy or landscaped areas, not the street or your neighbor.

All pool draining processes are subject to inspection and need approval of the Health Department and Natural Resources Department. Check <https://ecode360.com/NA0948/laws/LF1757042.pdf> for the approved regulations.



INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

We appreciate all the projects planned or completed by the Department of Public Works here in the village. The wood decking supports on the Footbridge have been replaced and railings are newly painted. More work on the structural support will be completed in the fall. North Gully footpath has been repaved with funding from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Chapter 90 funds. Several roads also have been resurfaced.

A redesign of the Sankaty Road/Coffin Street triangle to increase safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians has been approved and will be completed this year.

COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

Have you noticed several wood stakes at the 'Sconset beach? We are part of an island-wide beach project measuring shoreline changes and dune accretion or loss. In the future, we are hoping for a GPS system that will more accurately measure changes and help determine future coastal resiliency plans. Read more about the program at Coastal Monitoring Project | Nantucket, MA - Official Website <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/>



LOCAL BOY SCOUT EARNS EAGLE MERIT BADGE FOR SCONSET PROJECT

Reuben Eldridge earned his Eagle badge for the creation of a small park at the end of the Milestone Road bike path. Reuben recognized that the park next to the old Wannacomet Water office could use a clean-up and raised funds for supplies. Reuben solicited the DPW for a picnic table and the split rail fence was repaired. Recycle bins also were added. The Scouts plan to plant shrubs and flowers near the shade tree to enhance this shady stop for travelers. Congratulations to Reuben on his leadership on this project.

CALENDAR ESSENTIALS

MEMBER MEETINGS Monday, July 10 and Monday, August 7 at the Sconset Casino at 5:30. A reception precedes the meeting and guest speakers have been invited. Please renew your membership today on our website <https://www.siasconsetcivicassociation.org/>

Dues Should be paid by June 1st for the 2023-2024 membership year. Our volunteer treasurer and webmaster ask that you do this online to save administrative effort. You will receive a pre-check email so you can join our meetings without waiting in the check in line.

BIKE AND SCOOTER SAFETY DAY July 19, 9-11am Join us from 9-11am on New Street in front of the Casino. Navigate the course set by the Nantucket Police Department's Officer Cassie Thompson. Remember helmets are required for children 16 and under, including children riding in child seats on adult bikes.

CLEAN TEAM Every second Saturday of the month. Meet at 8:30am at the Rotary

HOSPITAL THRIFT SHOP Pick-up 8-9am Casino parking lot every Tuesday starting May 23rd



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P.O. Box 360, Siasconset, MA 02564 sconsetcivic@gmail.com www.siasconsetcivicassociation.org Follow us on Facebook and Instagram