

Siasconset Civic Association Member Meeting Minutes
August 5th, 2020
Held Via Zoom

Lynn Filipksi calls the meeting to order at 6pm.

Lynn welcomes members and introduces herself as the new president of the Civic Association. She reminds everyone that the Civic Association is dedicated to protecting the interests of property owners and residents, advocating for the preservation of the residential and historical character of the village, and raising funds to implement projects that benefit the community.

Lynn says she has asked Rob Benchley of the Siasconset Water Commission, and David Gray, Director of Sewers for the Town of Nantucket, to give brief remarks and updates on their work in Sconset following reports by the Board.

Lynn then requests a moment of silence to honor those whom we have lost over the past year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Lynn Filipski

Our key capital project this year is the renovation of Larsen Park in cooperation with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. With Martha Polachi leading the charge, we are creating a garden space on the east side of the park and removing the privet. Amy Manning Landscaping, which has replanted and maintains the rotary garden, is contracted to do the work. Lynn thanks Cindy and Rolf Nelson for helping to keep the area and the picnic tables clean so far and says they could use some reinforcements.

This summer we are witnessing increased visitors to the village whether by bus, car or bicycle. We are working with the police department to monitor speed using a traffic trailer on Main Street. We are proposing a traffic study to be done by the police department and advocating for solar speed signs and textured pavement on streets with the greatest concerns.

Safety is a top priority and we have created a subcommittee chaired by Gail Walker and John Shea looking at public streets and intersections that are problematic. Please know that the town code prohibits any encumbrances and that the Department of Public Works is authorized to remove something that is creating a safety concern. They will notify you in writing, but it is far easier to just remove or trim these items yourself.

Another group is reviewing street signs and house numbers to make sure that any that are missing are replaced. You of course can request from the DPW a sign replacement by filing out a form on the Town website or using the handy link on our own website. We will also review the placement of signs for speed, caution, parking or directional flow when approaching the village.

Together these subcommittees will provide useful information for updating the Sconset Area Master Plan for use by the Town of Nantucket. We are working on a survey questionnaire that will touch on a broad range of issues affecting the village and will welcome your input to ensure that the revised area plan reflects your ideas.

Most critically, with the retirement of our volunteer firefighters, we have lost the use of the fire station. Fire Chief Murphy recognizes the need for a fire station on the eastern end of the island and the town is working toward a new location. The Sconset Trust is working with the town on this issue as well and has documented the value of the Sconset Fire House as an historic structure. We will work with them as a partner to encourage and facilitate its preservation.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Wendy Holding

Donations for the year to date are \$8,635. Dues collected, so far, are \$7,960. While we have budgeted a loss for the year, there are many budgeted expenses that will not be realized this year because of Covid-19 restrictions. Dues can be paid online, by mail or by dropping a check at 15 Burnell. Electronic payments through our website are preferred.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Robert Franklin

We have 244 active household memberships and 46 pending renewals. We expect to have 290 active household memberships by the end of October. We had 256 active household memberships total last year.

In order to develop a more robust membership base we could compare the town tax appraisal database with our own. We could then send residents who are not currently members a mailing outlining who we are, what we do, and how to join. If anyone is interested in helping that they should get in touch with him.

Our donations have been over \$8,000 this year. If anyone is interested in donating, you can do it via siasconsetcivicassociation.org.

NOMINATIONS REPORT by Gail Walker

Karel Greenberg and David Bailey have been appointed to serve one-year terms. Karel's areas of responsibility will be the Scholarship Program and Nominations. David will serve as our Assistant Treasurer. The Board will be discussing how to fill the two remaining vacancies at our upcoming meeting. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, please send us an email.

CLEAN TEAM REPORT by Gail Walker

The next two cleanups are scheduled for 8/15 and 9/19. For details and to register, visit our website. We are also still in need of a Team Lead for the September 19th cleanup. If you'd like to volunteer, please email us. A big thanks to Anne Dougherty of Lincoln Street for volunteering to be Team Lead for the August 15th cleanup.

COVID-19 OUTREACH PROGRAM by Maxwell Mundy

We received donations of masks and t-shirts from Taylor Hilts, a representative from Town. We spent four hours each day July 16-18 encouraging people to wear masks. Most people did comply, with the exception of some runners and cyclists. We will do this again on August 7-8 from 9-1.

UPDATE ON SCONSET STREET LIGHTS by Gail Walker

Late last summer, five LED streetlights were installed on Main Street in Sconset as part of an LED streetlight pilot program by the Town and National Grid. As you may know, LED streetlights are much more energy-efficient than the streetlights that have been installed to date and the Town is looking for ways to reduce costs. Hence, the pilot program. The new streetlights that National Grid chose to install for the pilot are 4000 Kelvin, a blue-white light. Our old streetlights are 2700 Kelvin, a warm amber color. The Town's Energy Officer would like to know how the Sconset community feels about the new streetlights, whether the majority prefer the new lights over the old ones. So, at her request, we will be doing an online survey in the near future and encourage everyone to complete it.

Last fall, I created a list of all the streetlights in Sconset that aren't working. There are many. Some are the tall, "cobra" style streetlights that are maintained by National Grid, and some are the short, decorative street lamps that are maintained by the Town. Anyone who lives near a streetlight that isn't working can choose to report the outage. The way to do that is stated on our website, on the Points of Contact page under the "For the Love of 'Sconset" tab.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Robert Benchley, Sconset Water Department

The Sconset Water Department contracts with the Wannacomet Water Department on a yearly basis. Sconset Water has 847 customers and everything is in good shape. This summer the water usage has been up, most likely due to many more residents being here and for longer periods of time. We test our water for 30 to 40 volatile compounds and this past year nothing was detectable. Our two wells, located behind the ball field, are deep wells, under two layers of clay. They are ideal and the water is superb. One is 60ft and the other 120ft deep. We are currently considering a capital project that is looking at the water main on lower Baxter Road. The estimate for the project came in almost twice as much as we were anticipating. The main on upper Baxter Road is on hold until the Town decides whether it is going to relocate the road.

David Gray, Director of Sewer Services

The systems in Sconset date back to the 1920's. We are in the process of surveying the entire system. We are now focusing on repairs and replacement and we want to be as efficient as possible. We are putting together a comprehensive wastewater

management plan. We are looking to relocate the discharge beds on Low Beach. They are frequently flooded and getting too close to the ocean. We have done Covid testing in Sconset wastewater and the tests have come back negative.

A few questions came up for both speakers:

- Why does our water bill come from Wannacomet and not Sconset? Part of Wannacomet's responsibilities are maintaining the bookkeeping. Therefore, the bills are generated by them.
- Where does our water come from? Sconset
- Is there going to be a push to connect sewers to old septic? The remaining septic systems will be replaced by sewer.
- Do shampoos and soaps from outdoor showers affect the water? Not as of yet, but they could in the future.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT LYNN FILIPSKI

The Town has asked the Civic Associations for feedback on modifying the hours for construction. Please let us know what you would prefer.

Please continue to wear masks in the Historic District.

Please fill out the Census.

If you would like to reach out and help needy families, you might consider donating to the Nantucket Food, Fuel and Rental Assistance Program. The Sconset Chapel has many outreach opportunities as well. Please visit their website for more information.

Lynn thanks the Board, volunteers and the guest speakers for their time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Boone
Secretary