

Siasconset Civic Association (SCA) Board
Minutes for August 3, 2016
Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Martha Polachi, President. She read the necrology of members and fellow Sconseters who passed away during the year.

Nominating:

Mark Donato presented the slate of new board candidates for Nominating Chair, Sheila Daume. Those proposed are Lynn Filipski, Lee Lawrason and Maxwell Munday. Numerous people moved to accept the motion and John McCarthy seconded it. The board wholeheartedly thanked Kathi Cheek, Janet Eyre and Marcia Richards for their services to the Board and Sconset over the last six years.

Treasurer's Report:

Gene Hilzenrath presented the report, copies of which circulated throughout the hall. He noted that dues cover our expenses and that 36 donations to the SCA have been sent to the Community Foundation for Nantucket (CF-Nan) that maintains a fund for the Civic Association as well as numerous other small eleemosynary organizations on island. Funds donated to the CF-Nan are tax deductible and those funds will be available for special projects identified by the Civic Association board. Gene noted that the new website the SCA is developing will offer provisions for paying dues and donations online going forward.

Noting that membership in the SCA was slightly ahead of 2015, Gene attributed increased membership interest to a larger mailing list for the annual newsletter. He thanked Susan Ried and Snooky Eldredge for their work in compiling the 600 names and addresses of 'Sconset homeowners, and noted that this year the SCA reached people who were previously unaware of the Civic Association's work and mission.

July Summary:

Martha offered a recap of matters discussed at the July meeting, including

- 1) Acknowledgment of the 2016 \$2,500 scholarship award to Elizabeth Eldredge for commencement of her fire fighting studies at Anna Maria College.
- 2) good work done by Siobhan O'Mahoney in getting the new playground up and running. It is being enjoyed by many. One caution raised was that playground and beach parking not impede ambulance and fire vehicle access on Codfish Park Road.
- 3) Update on the replacement of the 'Sconset Flagpole. The project has become a far more complicated undertaking than originally thought. DPW head, Kara Buzanoski now anticipates completion in October 2017 providing funding and engineering can be arranged by April 2017. The restoration will follow the original designs from the early 1920s.
- 4) Retirement/honoring of the Volunteer/Call 'Sconset Fire Fighter brigade. Because of mandatory state retirement requirements, 'Sconset has been left without

local volunteers. While one full-time NFD member lives in 'Sconset, he is available only when off-duty. Fire Chief Paul Rhude has been considering assignment of fire fighters to the village during the summer months along with repurposing room in the firehouse for on-duty housing. Funding requests must be made to the 2017 Annual Town Meeting before this can become a reality. Nelson Eldredge, Gerald Eldredge, Rob Benchley, Carol Moffat and Skip Vollans, 'Sconset's most recent retirees, with a cumulative 197 years of service were invited forward and applauded.

The Community Foundation for Nantucket (CF-Nan):

Margaretta Andrews, Executive Director of the decade-old organization, spoke about CF-Nan's work on behalf of the island community. Currently the fund has 85 (including the Siasconset Civic Association's) funds under management totaling \$4,000,000. Over \$1,000,000 in grants will be distributed in 2016. Andrews spoke about the key areas of concern on Nantucket: Behavioral health and substance abuse, homelessness and hunger.

NextDoor 'Sconset:

Gail Walker spoke about her introduction of NextDoor, a nationwide social media website to share information, advice and create community. Membership is growing and over 250 'Sconseters are reading and sharing postings daily.

New Business:

Alix St. Clair wanted to bring to community attention some controversial changes in staffing at the Historic Districts Commission (HDC). The Inquirer and Mirror also provides coverage of these developments and open town meetings will be dedicated to discussions of proposed staffing changes.

Samantha Fremont-Smith spoke about the signs she and others have been posting this summer addressing their concerns about speeding vehicles on Main and other 'Sconset streets. She asks that the community join in a holistic approach to traffic safety. Martha Polachi reported on the conversations (ongoing) that she has been having with the Nantucket Police Department and Department of Public Works (DPW) concerning speeding and awareness of speed restrictions within the village. The police have made officers available in cruisers and on bicycles to help monitor and restrict speed; they have also put up signs and had the speed trailer present for a few days. Our concerns are now well known to island law enforcement. Certain streets are more problematic than others (Burnell, Morey Lane, Low Beach Road, Sankaty, Main Street) and they are being identified and included in overall plans to reduce speed. One audience member noted state department of transportation provisions (guidelines for highways and roads) for a process concerning Traffic Calming measures and offered to send information to Martha.

Bill Novack wanted to discuss the presence of police in the village. He noted that while the community concern is currently for speed during daylight hours, the police have limited manpower. They are typically present in 'Sconset between 6-

2pm to contain the noise and other anti-community behaviors at the Summerhouse. He urged the community to discuss specifics with the officers and show them followup photos of traffic transgressions (e.g. Cisco delivery truck) to help in addressing actual concerns. Other suggestions were to call NRTA if you have concerns about bus driving or the non-emergency police number (508-228-1212) with general driving concerns.

Peter Krogh asked to commend Martha for her leadership and Margaretta Andrews for the outstanding vehicle she has created in CF-Nan. Peter went on to testify to the help her fund was able to provide as he raised funding for the Seal Abatement program.

Noting that Al Lussier was retiring from his many years as head of the SCA's scholarship committee, Martha thanked him for his years of service and a job well done.

Martha concluded her remarks by noting the imminent launch (September) of the Siasconset Civic Association's new web-site, hosted by Wild Apricot.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 and attendees proceeded to the community Barbecue, all food for which was provided by the 'Sconset Market and the SCA board members.