

Siasconset Casino Association Member Meeting Minutes
August 4th, 2021

The meeting of the Siasconset Civic Association was held at the Casino following a reception at 5:30 pm.

President's Report by Lynn Filipski

Lynn welcomed the membership to the August Siasconset Civic Association Membership meeting. Yesterday was the 90th anniversary of the first meeting of the Civic Association. After reviewing documents at the NHA library, Lynn remarked that we are still dealing with similar issues: road conditions, tourism, and traffic.

Before we began, Lynn requested a moment of silence to honor those whom we have lost over the past year but forever remain a part of the spirit of 'Sconset.

In light of the increase in Covid cases, Lynn apologized for not hosting our annual potluck dinner following the meeting. She thanked the membership for wearing their masks indoors. Lynn mentioned that the July meeting minutes and report from Vince Murphy, coastal resilience coordinator, are available on our website.

Lynn reported on the garden at Larsen Park that was officially opened with a ribbon cutting on July 16th. Martha Polachi, the Nantucket Garden Club president, Rob Benchley and Snooky Eldridge did the honors. Thanks go to the NGC for providing funds for the plants and to our members that provided the balance of the funds for irrigation and labor. Lynn thanked Wannacomet, Waterworks, Amy Manning and her team and especially the Nantucket Conservation Foundation for making it a reality.

Lynn reported that in the same week, the Siasconset Civic Association sponsored bike and scooter safety day for children on New Street. The Nantucket Police Department and our own bike safety officer Dan set up the obstacle course and provided glow-in-the-dark wristbands. The SCA provided fun t-shirts and ice cream coupons courtesy of the Market. Lynn thanked Robert Franklin, Maggie Boone and Karel Greenberg for helping and Holly Pagon for photographing the event.

Lynn recognized our Clean Team volunteers who participate monthly. She asked members to join the effort on the second Saturday of every month at 8am by registering on our website. The 8/4 special event honored Nancy Broll, one of our greatest volunteers.

Lynn reported that the Sconset Area Plan had been formally submitted to the Director of Planning and PLUS. The plan updated key concerns and made recommendations that the town will consider for adoption in their strategic plan. ***The primary goal of the SAP is to preserve the rich architectural heritage and character of 'Sconset or future generations of residents and visitors. This includes keeping a vital village center and being a steward of the many valuable cultural and natural resources that enhance the communal life of its residents.*** Copies will be circulated to members and on our website once the plan is recommended to the Select Board later this summer or fall. Lynn thanked the membership for their input.

Lynn reported that the SCA Board meets monthly. Lynn explained that in addition to our responsibilities for the gardens at the rotary, Larsen Park and Pump Square and our projects such as scholarships, bike safety day and clean team, the Board tackles major issues such as town warrant articles; educate members on zoning laws governing hedges, encroachments,

noise, residential and street lights; highlight the importance of the dark sky movement, solar energy and more all to keep you informed. Lynn proceeded to introduce the members of the Board. (**Gail Walker, Wendy Holding, Maggie Boone, Maxwell Mundy, John Shea, David Bailey, Karel Greenberg, Bill Druckemiller, Cindy Nelson, Robert Franklin, Holly Pagon, Tom Loughlin**). She thanked the many volunteers that helped and encouraged membership participation.

Lynn explained that our mission is to educate members on the various issues and hear what they have to say so we can represent them at larger forums such as the Nantucket Civic League meetings of all associations or at town committee, council or board meetings. She reminded the membership to refer to our website often for important news and use the town website as well. Libby Gibson issues a monthly newsletter filled with information.

Treasurer's Report by Wendy Holding

Wendy reported that we are in good shape financially. We brought in \$12,560 in dues, \$11,000 was budgeted. We had \$28,000 come in. Spent \$19,000. There is \$35,000 in a community fund and \$155,000 in our account.

Membership Report by Robert Franklin

Robert thanked the membership for their support and the volunteers who helped him check members in at the door, Bill Druckemiller and Charles Mappin.

He explained that if members are interested in the specifics of the membership drive they could speak to him directly. One year ago we had 266 paid households. As of 8/4 we had 311 paid households. The factors that contributed to the increase in households were a Spring membership drive, email blasts, membership tables at the rotary, a new dropbox at Sconset Real Estate and an electronic pre-check system.

At the beginning of the July meeting we got more new members than renewals. The lapsed households will receive a mail solicitation. Robert made sure to stress the importance of renewing online. He mentioned that we still had a large pool of people who are not yet members. He requested that members suggest to their friends to consider joining.

ByLaw proposal by Gail Walker

Vice President Gail Walker explained that the membership had been notified of changes to the Bylaws proposed by the Board, both at the July member meeting and by email. The proposed changes were adopted unanimously. The most significant change is that the Board will now consist of twelve (12) Directors and the Officers will be elected by the Board each year from among the Directors serving at that time.

Clean Team Report by Tom Loughlin

Tom thanked Gail for her efforts leading the Clean Team. The clean up that happened on 8/4 was in honor of Nancy Broll who was a long standing participant in the monthly efforts. Thirty-nine people turned out including many of Nancy's friends and relatives. Tom mentioned that we hold these events on the second Saturday of every month at 8 am. Tom announced that our next Clean Team event would be on 8/14 in conjunction with the Nantucket Clean Team at Low Beach Road. We would appreciate a big turn out and would like to encourage everyone to preregister so that we can be in touch with any last minute changes or information.

Nantucket Lights by Gail Walker

Vice President Gail Walker discussed light pollution on Nantucket and the new citizen advocacy group she has founded in her personal capacity to combat it, called Nantucket Lights. She encouraged everyone to read the two handouts that were provided: a Cape Cod Times article

about this organization published on August 2nd (available here: <https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2021/08/02/nantucket-lights-pollution-preserve-view-island-dark-skies-maria-mitchell-cape-cod-wildlife-night/7926571002/>) and the brochure recently published by Nantucket Lights in collaboration with the Nantucket Civic League, called "A Guide to Responsible Outdoor Lighting for Residences" (available at the Civic Association's bulletin board at the Rotary). She reported that light pollution on the island has increased at a rate of 2.4% each year since 2012 according to satellite data; explained the harm that results from light pollution; and then reviewed the Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting adopted last year by the International Dark Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society, as well as the provisions of Nantucket's Outdoor Lighting Bylaw pertaining to residential outdoor lighting. In general, to comply with the Bylaw, residential outdoor lighting must be no brighter than 40 watts if using an incandescent bulb, or 7 watts if using an LED. She urged everyone to make sure their own home, at a minimum, complies with this Bylaw and, even better, with the Five Principles, which, among other things, encourages the use of warmer color lights where possible. She noted that for color temperature, the International Dark Sky Association recommends 2200K for most outdoor lighting applications, which is an amber color. She concluded by encouraging everyone to join Nantucket Lights, saying that the more members it has, the more influential it can be. A link for joining is on the home page of its website, <https://nantucketlights.org>, and membership is free. Nantucket Lights is the only organization on the island exclusively dedicated to raising awareness about light pollution and advocating for environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. It has been formally endorsed by the board of the Siasconset Civic Association and a number of prominent island-wide organizations.

DPW Interim Director Stephen Arceneaux

He expressed his appreciation for the work of Mark Voight, the head of the Dept. of Facilities who passed away in May, and the contributions of Rob McNeil who recently resigned as the head of the DPW. The DPW currently has the lowest number of staff that it has ever had but is actively interviewing new workers. Community efforts such as the Clean Team are a huge help to the department. He said that he is looking forward to working with Gail Walker and Nantucket Lights. He is interested in learning about what the community needs. He proceeded to take questions from the audience.

- There is a public light in Codfish Park that is not directed properly. How can this be addressed? The Town Manager and National Grid are in discussions about who is responsible for the lights. He suggested that anyone with a concern or complaint go to the Town website, into the work order system under the DPW and fill out a work order. Pictures and documents can be uploaded as well.

- Who is responsible for the maintenance of the footpath? It needs to be brush cut and receive regular maintenance. Stephen mentioned that he has spoken to the Town Manager about the possibility of hiring outside contractors to assist. He said that they are actively looking for a solution.

- Is the Take It Or Leave It coming back? They are planning to bring it back two to three days a week. They need to hire two technicians to monitor it. They are looking for money and employees.

- The new bike baths have been a welcome addition. The visibility has improved tremendously. There is however, some repaving that could be done at the end of the Milestone Rd. path close

to the rotary. The Low Beach Road beach access could also be regraded. As Stephen mentioned before, the DPW is low on road crew employees. David Gray has offered assistance.

There is a bike path and roadway plan. Town does not have a traffic coordinator at the moment. Stephen mentioned that he will be pushing for regular maintenance. He reminded the membership to use the service request options online.

AckNow presentation by Linda Holland

Linda explained that she is dedicated to protecting and enriching Nantucket by limiting the short term rentals that have become more popular on the island. The original AckNow article was defeated. Linda is looking for community input and wants to come back with a more thoughtful option. She provided a handout with more comprehensive information that members are welcome to take.

Advance Questions/Questions for Lynn

Noise - the Nantucket Civic League has formed a working group. Bill Druckemiller is our liaison.

Is the parking around the rotary legal? The area that is used for parking is town owned and therefore is legal. We do have to remind people to be careful not to park too close to the rotary or the intersections.

Hedge encroachments - the SCA is working with the DPW to keep these cut back. John Shea asked if the rocks, stakes etc. that are placed on the outside of people's hedges to prevent people from parking are legal? That is not legal and is an encroachment.

How far back from the centerline of the road does the town own? It depends on the property and the street.

Did the Board of Health respond to the letter regarding 6/8 Shell Street? No

Has there been any discussion about pedestrian access or closing down any of the streets to pedestrians only? No, but there is a push to promote the use of the WAVE. There are no plans to widen the roads. There is some consideration of resident parking permits in the Sconset Area Plan for the Sconset Historic District..

Does the SCA interface with the HDC? No, but one can always propose an idea through the SAB to the HDC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Boone
Secretary