

Siasconset Civic Association Membership Meeting
July 10, 2023

Held at the Siasconset Casino Association

Welcome and President's Report by Lynn Filipski

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the Siasconset Civic Association's annual member meeting. As we enter our 92nd year, we continue to hold fast to our mission to protect the interests of property owners and residents of Sconset. This includes preserving the residential and historical character of the village, advocating and raising funds for improvements that benefit the community and providing a place to discuss matters affecting the village.

As is our tradition, would you please stand and observe a moment of silence for those Sconset residents that we sadly have lost in the past year but will always remember. Thank you.

Tonight we are fortunate to have Jeff Carlson, the Natural Resources Director, speak to us later in the meeting. Other guests here include Cassie Thompson, the Nantucket police officer who leads our bike and scooter safety day; Natalie Thompson of the Nantucket Community School who leads our CPR/defibrillator training and Libby Gibson, Town Manager. A special thank you to the Sconset Casino for giving us this space to meet, the Sconset Market for the dessert treats and our volunteers assisting with membership check-in. We thank all our volunteers who help throughout the year with the Clean Team as well as the wide range of other Sconset residents who share their talents on various town boards, nonprofits and church committees making the island a better place.

The Siasconset Civic Association consists of 12 directors who manage a varied portfolio of responsibilities. I would like to introduce the board to you. Karel Greenberg, Tom Loughlin, David Bailey, Maggie Boone, Betsy Boe, Bill Druckemiller, John Shea, Cindy Nelson, Holly Pagon, Matt Fremont-Smith, Robert Franklin, Wendy Holding. Very special thanks go to our webmaster Gail Walker, a past board member and current director and founder of Nantucket Lights plus the Next Door Sconset editor. Please use and read our fantastic website stocked full of information about us, the village and the Town. News you can use!

I would like to make a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the July 2022 meeting (seconded and approved).

As president, it is my responsibility and pleasure to update you on the work of the civic association during the past year and our hopes for the future. You are aware of our monthly Clean Team picking up trash on the second Saturday of every month and our annual July bike and scooter safety day to ensure all children follow the rules of the road to safely navigate our streets. Our scholarships for Sconset residents are a highlight every year and are presented tonight. How many other things do you know that we do?

We are responsible for the lovely gardening spaces at the Rotary, Pump Square and Larsen Park. Without the help and design expertise of Amy Manning and her crew, there would be no beautiful flowers to enjoy on your walk through the village center. This year we upgraded the picnic tables due to the heavy use of the Larsen Park area and this has become a favorite spot for bikers, walkers, families and visitors alike, a special place to enjoy a drink, ice cream or

lunch from the Sconset Market or Claudette's. Thank you to those who have made additional monetary contributions in addition to your dues that allow us to take on these projects and especially our small group of expert volunteers who put the tables together.

The Department of Public Works is our key partner and keeps the village looking its best, repairing street signs and potholes as requested. From mowing the bike paths and bluff walk to trash pick-up and tree trimming, the DPW is out here on a weekly basis. Did you notice they repainted the rotary flagpole and replaced the navigation light just in time for Fourth of July? This year, they assisted with the repaving of the North Gully footpath which had badly deteriorated over the past years. The cost of this was \$100,000 but was paid for by a Massachusetts State Chapter 90 grant. We hope to add more daffodil and native plants to keep the area looking natural and help with water runoff. Last fall, the DPW added shells to Front Street due to the heavy tourist traffic on this private way. A new DPW Director Andrew Patnode will begin soon and future projects include relaying the cobblestones by the bus station side of the rotary and the redesign of the Sankaty Road/Coffin intersection.

Our life on the eastern side of Nantucket can be challenging as we face the forces of Mother Nature on our beaches and bluff. The future of the upper end of Baxter Road is still uncertain and discussions continue on the geotubes, the road and utility relocation, and the costs facing the Town. We have written to the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to advocate for a commonsense solution based on science. We welcomed the coastal resiliency initiative that measures shoreline erosion or accretion in Codfish Park and hope to underwrite a GPS system there as well.

For many months we have concentrated on the bluff walk, highlighted in every travel magazine. With over 600 people a day walking its abbreviated length due to coastal erosion, it has surpassed its original intent of a quiet, peaceful scenic path. Recognizing the fine balance between the public's legal right to access and the private homeowners right to privacy, we have worked with the Roads and Right of Way Committee and the HDC Sign Advisory Committee to change the signage to reflect updated times to walk the path (7:30-sunset), rules of civility for the path (no running, dogs on a leash, no bikes) and importantly the history and geology of the area. Our summer safety officers will periodically visit access points. Let's do our best to set an example as good neighbors as we walk the path.

Middle Gully Road, an emergency access road as well as a historic path to the beach, also has been a concern for the civic association. Proposed renovations of 8 Bank Street have raised issues about bluff stability in that area and we have commented at many meetings including the HDC and the ZBA about the importance of this vital road for Codfish Park residents. A citizen warrant article, sponsored by the owner, to create town sewer for Codfish Park is proposed for the November town meeting. We have communicated our concerns with the Board of Health, Planning Board, Sewer Department and the Water Commission who advise the Select Board and will comment when the warrant is reviewed by the Finance Committee.

We were very pleased that the Dark Sky lighting article was passed after all the hard work of Gail Walker. The effects of excessive night light on people, animals, insects and plants can be harmful for their survival and we welcome the opportunity to lessen the use of electricity for non-essential lighting. We are a village, not a suburb, and our lighting should reflect our special place far from the mainland. We hope to work with the Town and Nantucket Lights on adapting the village's 34 colonial style lights to Dark Sky appropriate standards.

Recently we have all become aware of the safety issues at the Summer House. Due to unpermitted and unlicensed work done on heating, electrical and plumbing, the Town has closed this venue. Obviously neighbors are unnerved by the potential damage that could have ensued if there had been another fire or explosion. We will follow any permitting process and Select Board hearings to voice our point-of-view. There will be a Board of Health hearing on July 20 to discuss potentially lifting the ban or reviewing an action plan to reopen.

Sconset is a unique place filled with history, a special kind of Brigadoon. Native Americans and early whaling families would not recognize what we have become—sometimes a cacophony of lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, hammers, drills, stone cutters, air conditioning condensers, and pool equipment. Some of the noise problems we can solve ourselves by adopting electric landscaping tools, following town noise bylaws and voluntarily decreasing the hours of construction projects. Borrowing from Ghandi, it is really up to us to make the change we want to see. Let's breathe in that ocean air, be soothed by the quiet sunrise and vibrant sunsets, explore the open landscape and enjoy the charming architecture that still inspires a love of history. Join us in our efforts to keep the village safe, quieter, beautiful and star friendly. We are deeply grateful for your support.

Treasurer's Report by David Bailey

I am pleased to report this evening on the financial condition of the Siasconset Civic Association and to propose the budget for the calendar year 2024.

First, recapping 2022, (2nd column on the handout) we ended the year with total cash of \$133,805; \$100,556 in our Rockland Trust account and \$33,250 held at the Community Foundation for Nantucket. In 2022, we collected dues of \$13,400 and donations of \$9,720. We very much appreciate your donations as they help us fund our special projects around Sconset. Expenses of just under \$29,000, exceeded revenues by \$5,000 and included the December purchase of new picnic tables for Larsen Park.

In the 4th column, you'll see our results through June 30 of this year. We have collected dues of \$10,040 and donations of \$9,280 for a total of \$19,500, comparable with the first half last year. And, given our seasonality, expenses so far are only \$8,000. I should note that the Board approved an increase to \$6,000 for scholarships to be awarded in 2023; you will hear more about that later in the program.

The proposed budget for 2024 (last column on the right) is very comparable to our actual results in 2022. We are planning for dues of \$13,800 and donations of \$10,000 for total revenue of \$23,800. Expenses of a little over \$29,000 would result in a cash drawdown of \$5,500 during the year. With over \$145,000 in cash as of June 30, we are quite comfortable with the proposed modest cash drawdown in 2024.

See attached budget

Membership Report by Robert Franklin

Robert reported that the committee has been hard at work getting members current with their dues. The committee solicited 20 new members over the winter. AS of 7/10, the SCA has 280 paid households. The SCA's goal is to have 350 household memberships. Robert encouraged the membership to solicit their friends and neighbors.

Robert explained the pros of our new payment system, Affinipay, and reminded the membership that the details were included in an email sent to the membership in February.

Robert asked the membership to reach out if they have questions or issues renewing or donating.

Nominating Report by Tom Loughlin

Tom Loughlin introduced three new proposed Board candidates based on the work of the Nominating Committee - Emily Maletta, Dan Weber and Nell Wilson. He described their backgrounds and their qualifications to serve our community as members of the Board. Lynn Filipski then requested a motion from the floor to elect these nominees, which was made and seconded, and she asked for a voice vote. The three candidates were elected with no opposition.

Board Member Retirements

Lynn announced the retirement of Maggie Boone, our amazing secretary who tracks all monthly board meetings and member meetings; Bill Druckemiller, who chaired the noise committee and was a key consultant on our covid policies; and Robert Franklin who revolutionized the membership check-in process, added significant members to our association and chaired Bike/Scooter Safety Day. Lynn Filipski announced that she too was retiring but has been appointed to the Advisory Committee of Non-resident Taxpayers.

Scholarship Presentation by Karel Greenberg

First I would like to thank our scholarship committee, Martha Polachi and Mary Will. Together we review the applications and meet with the students who apply for the Scholarship program(s). I would also like to thank our entire membership because without you these scholarships would not be possible.

The Sconset Civic Association offers 2 scholarships. The first is an award of \$3000 given to a qualified Nantucket High School senior or a recent graduate who resides in Sconset. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage and support the enrichment of the applicant's education. We also offer a Summer Study Scholarship which is awarded to a Nantucket High School student who is in the 9th, 10th or 11th grade who resides in Sconset. The purpose of this award is to advance the knowledge and experience that would benefit the applicant's future academic or technical skills. Unfortunately, we did not have an applicant this year for the Summer Study program award of \$1,000.

Tonight we will recognize 2 High School Seniors - David Bechtold and Reuben Eldridge. We are thrilled to present both David and Reuben with the Sconset Civic Association Scholarship Award in the amount of \$3000 each to go towards their college education. David, Reuben, you were both a pleasure to meet with and we all wish you the best of luck. Both David and Reuben have a long history that ties them and their families to Sconset and now I would like to invite them up to say a few words.

Karl Greenberg Thanked Lynn for her service as President

The work of the Civic Association has become increasingly important to this community. Lynn has risen to fulfill that role to represent us and has raised our level of engagement in the greater Nantucket community- with excellent judgment, diligence and enthusiasm that is crucial to the future of Sconset. But do not fear Lynn will continue to represent us as she was recently appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for Non-voting Taxpayers for a three year term!

Lynn, we present you with this basket. The plate reads: 2016-2023 With gratitude from the village of Sconset including our new logo designed by Holly Pagan and language by Robert Franklin. Thank you, Lynn!

Eldridge Award Presentation by Lynn Filipski and John Shea

As I have mentioned many times, the village of Sconset is blessed with many residents who are generous with their time and talents throughout the years. Look at our own residents that serve on Town commissions, committees and boards or others who help non-profits or churches. Yet once and a while, there is a very special individual who adds something exceptionally unique to our village. The Board of the Siasconset Civic Association voted to create a unique award in recognition of an individual's sustained dedication and volunteerism on behalf of the village and the island. I am pleased to introduce John Shea to give the award this evening to our first recipient.

Presentation of the Eldridge Award by John Shea

Rarely will you meet a person in life whose contributions, talents and humble demeanor match those of this very special person. A lifelong resident of 'Sconset and the fifth generation to live on Nantucket, this individual has truly added to our small island village in many seen and unseen ways.

The only Guinness world record holder who lives on island, this person has made both public and private contributions of their time and talent. A dedicated officer holder, he has served as the chairman of the Board of the United Methodist Church, Deputy Fire Chief, Vice President of Nantucket's Fireman Association, Vice Chair of the Nantucket Board of Water Commissioners, board member of the Siasconset Civic Association, a Roads and Right of Way committee member and Chair of the altar guild at the United Methodist Church.

He is tireless in his chosen commitments. He appealed to the Conservation Preservation Committee to preserve and restore the 1937 American LaFrance fire truck and he built a replica of the water pump for the 2008 NHA 'Sconset exhibit. When the days grow darker in December,

he is up on a ladder hanging Christmas lights at the Rotary and placing Santa and his reindeer at the firehouse. Decorations adorning the post office window are also courtesy of this special elf. When the irrigation for Larsen Park needed an immediate connection to the water source to save the newly-planted garden, he was quick to arrive with his tool kit since he is a qualified licensed plumber.

Mostly he embodies the special spirit of the village and his love for the community. We would like to honor Snooky Eldridge by naming a new award for exceptional volunteerism and service to the village and naming it the Eldridge Award for all future recipients.

July 11th was proclaimed Nelson “Snooky” Eldridge Day in Sconset.

Featured Speaker introduction by Lynn Filipski

Lynn introduced Jeff Carlson as the evening’s featured speaker. Jeff is the Natural Resources Director for the Town of Nantucket. Jeff Carlson has been responsible for its operation since the creation of the Department in 2011. The department has been a part of many significant programs including development of a Shellfish Management Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Coastal Resiliency Plan, and Water Quality Plan. The department has completed projects such as the renovation of the Brant Point Shellfish Hatchery, Shimmo Oyster Reef, Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring, and Water Quality Management. He is the Town’s Primary Conservation Agent and is the senior administrator of the Conservation Commission.

Since his arrival on Nantucket in 2000, he was an environmental permitting specialist for Nantucket Surveyors and later the Town’s Beach Manager. A graduate of Purdue University with a degree in natural resources, he also has completed the Suffolk University Public Administration Certification Program.

Question and Answer Session

Jeff answered questions about water quality on the island including the ponds and harbor. A proposed coastal resiliency district was discussed but he encouraged everyone to follow the Select Board discussion on this.

Lynn answered questions on the bluff walk and what the civic association is doing to update the rules of use and the efforts of the bike safety officers to help visitors with following the rules.

Announcements:

The August 7 meeting will feature Select Board member Matt Fee and Chief Pittman will be honored as he nears his retirement in November.

The Clean Team will meet on 8/12, 9/9 and 10/14.

Bike and Scooter Safety Day is scheduled for 7/19 from 9am-11am.

SIASCONSET CIVIC ASSOCIATION BUDGET - 2023 & 2024

6/30/2023

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 YTD June 30	2024 Proposed Budget
INCOME:					
Dues	\$13,760.00	\$13,400.00	\$13,800.00	\$10,040.00	\$13,800.00
Donations	\$16,050.00	\$9,720.00	\$12,000.00	\$9,280.00	\$10,000.00 ¹⁾
Interest Earned	\$10.91	\$10.90	\$11.00	\$5.13	\$11.00
Miscellaneous				\$204.96 ²⁾	
<u>T-Shirt Sales</u>		\$760.00	\$400.00 ³⁾		
Total Income	\$29,810.00	\$23,890.90	\$26,211.00	\$19,530.09	\$23,811.00
EXPENSES					
Accounting	\$750.00	\$575.00	\$600.00	\$975.00	\$1,000.00
Bank Fees				\$12.00	
Civic League Dues	\$1,380.00	\$1,720.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,675.00	\$1,725.00
Clean Team	\$602.93		\$500.00 ⁴⁾		\$500.00
Communications/Office Supplies	\$919.94		\$1,000.00	\$87.45	\$1,000.00
Donations/Gifts	\$0.00	\$2,560.00	\$1,000.00 ⁵⁾	\$430.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance + Permits	\$416.00	\$635.00	\$650.00	\$125.00	\$650.00
Landscaping/Beautification	\$15,810.16	\$11,849.19	\$16,000.00 ⁶⁾	\$2,686.36	\$10,000.00
Meetings/Refreshments	\$168.00	\$2,689.91	\$3,500.00	\$72.00	\$3,500.00
Miscellaneous					
Merchandise		\$1,750.16			
Online Payment Fees	\$418.61	\$510.06	\$0.00 ⁷⁾	\$239.31	\$50.00
Postage	\$295.85	\$2.20	\$375.00	\$205.20	\$375.00
Safety Programs	\$486.29	\$642.16	\$1,200.00 ⁸⁾	\$1,003.23	\$1,200.00
Scholarships	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00 ⁹⁾
Sconset Citizen Award			\$300.00	\$279.00	\$300.00
Annual Report Filing Fees	\$70.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$109.00 ¹⁰⁾	\$53.50
<u>Web-Related</u>	\$3,480.10	\$3,458.48	\$4,000.00	\$159.27	\$4,000.00
Total Expenses	\$27,297.88	\$28,927.16	\$34,910.00	\$8,057.82	\$29,353.50
Transfer from Bank Cash Balance			\$8,699.00		\$5,542.50
NET INCOME	\$2,512.12	(\$5,036.26)	\$0.00	\$11,472.27	\$0.00
Cash Balances:					
Rockland Trust Balance	\$105,636.89	\$100,555.73		\$111,778.00	
<u>Sconset Civic Assn Fund @ CFN</u>	\$35,088.40	\$33,249.67		\$34,014.68	
Total Cash Balance	\$140,725.29	\$133,805.40		\$145,792.68	

Notes:

- 1) Donations: The \$10k forecast for 2024 reflects a modestly lower expectation post-Covid
- 2) Miscellaneous: website refund from discontinuation of PayPal
- 3) T-Shirt sales: selling remaining t-shirts (\$400 = 20 shirts).
- 4) Clean Team: we reduced the budget because Marine Home Center now donates free bags and gloves.
- 5) Donations/Gifts: none planned yet other than the heaters for the annual December party (\$450).
- 6) Landscaping 2023: landscaping possible for north gully footpath/sankaty triangle.
Roughly \$6K for maintenance and garden work at the rotary, larsen park, and the water pump areas.
Daffodils planted in the fall for the north gully footpath that goes from the Bluff Walk to Bank Street.
- 7) Online Payment Fees: payment processing fees for PayPal and AffiniPay
- 8) Safety Programs: money for t-shirts to give away, etc.
- 9) 2024 Scholarships offered: one \$1,000 gift for a high school summer program; one \$3,000 gift for a college/graduate program.
2023 College scholarships awarded: \$6,000 total for two \$3,000 gifts to NHS graduates
- 10) Annual Report Filing Fees include \$35 to Mass AGO and \$18.50 for annual Mass Corporate Filing Fee.
The expense is higher in 2023 because we had to catch up on Mass Corporate filings.