

# **Siasconset Civic Association Membership Meeting**

**August 7, 2023**

Held at the Siasconset Casino Association at 6pm

## **Welcome and President's Report**

Karel Greenberg, elected by the Board as our new President following the July member meeting, welcomed members to the meeting and asked everyone to rise and observe a moment of silence for those 'Sconset residents that we have sadly lost this past year and will always remember. She then welcomed special guests Police Chief William Pittman and Select Board member Matt Fee, who spoke following the business portion of the meeting.

Karel reminded members that the Board of the Civic Association consists of 12 directors who come to us with varied talents: Tom Loughlin, David Bailey, Wendy Holding, Betsy Boe, John Shea, Cindy Nelson, Holly Pagon, Matt Fremont-Smith, and our newest members, Emily Maletta, Nell Wilson, and Dan Weber. All stood to be recognized except for Wendy, Nell, and Dan, who were not able to attend. Karel also thanked Gail Walker for her work as webmaster.

Karel assured members that the board is committed to preserving the residential and historical character of 'Sconset as well as providing a forum to discuss matters impacting our village.

Karel thanked Dave Dunn and his team at the Casino for hosting the meeting, Cindy & Rolf of the 'Sconset Market for providing delicious desserts, treats and flowers, bartenders Teddy Price and Olivia Dillon, and all the volunteers who helped make the meeting possible.

Clean Team volunteers as well as our 'Sconset residents who share their many talents on various town boards and nonprofits throughout the year were also acknowledged and thanked.

Karel introduced three Community Service Officers (Caity, Olivia, and Bennet) who were in attendance, noting that they have been working to keep traffic moving, ticketing for parking violations when necessary, and helping to monitor the pedestrian traffic on the Bluff.

Karel encouraged members to visit our website, follow the Civic Association on Instagram and Facebook, and to tag their friends. The website is full of information about safety, rules and regulations, events, and just about anything one needs to know about the village.

Karel then updated members about the work of the Civic Association since the July meeting and some initiatives that are in the works:

- The Civic Association purchased two LIFEPAK Defibrillator Systems, one for the 'Sconset Market and one for the Chanticleer, and the Board is working to develop a list of doctors who live here in the village who can be contacted at a moment's notice when help is needed. This is not a full solution to the lack of a satellite fire station near 'Sconset but will hopefully help during a wait for the EMT's arrival. On this front, the Board will also be organizing another CPR class at the Nantucket Community School for 'Sconset residents in June of next year (like the one held this past June). The more people who get certified, the better equipped the village will be to help neighbors in times of distress.
- At a recent Town meeting, immediate past President Lynn Filipski met the new Fire Chief, Michael Cranson, who said he would very much like to speak at our member meeting next year. Karel plans on meeting with Chief Cranson to give him better insight into the needs of our community. Water hydrants are reportedly being replaced or upgraded across the island.
- New Bluff walk signage has been approved and the signs are in process of being manufactured. Karel thanked Lynn Filipski and Holly Pagon for accomplishing this. The wording of the new signage has been posted on Nextdoor and sent by email to all Civic Association members. Karel asked everyone to be mindful of our neighbors as we walk the path and said the board will continue to explore options to lessen the burden on those owning homes adjacent to the Bluff walk.
- The Traffic Safety Working Group and the DPW responded quickly to the Board's request to install a 30-minute parking limit sign across from the Post Office which will stop long-term parking there. We also have a new parking sign at the Post Office which limits parking to 15 minutes. This should help our Community Service Officers as they navigate the parking issues around the rotary. Parking is a premium and we want to encourage long-term parking on Gully Road.
- Enforcing town regulations, the DPW at our request removed metal stakes on West Sankaty, Coffin, Baxter Road, Low Beach Road, and Morey Lane. And they cut back the bushes on New Street which were impeding pedestrian traffic. Karel reminded members that rocks, high hedges, metal stakes are dangerous and are prohibited on public roads. And she asked members to remind their landscapers to comply with town regulations which prohibit their use of gas-powered leaf blowers.
- Speeding is a high priority, and the Board will continue to caution landscapers, contractors, and other trades people to slow down as they enter and leave the village.

- Baxter Road, Cod Fish Park, the Summer House, and preservation of our dark sky will continue to be priorities as well.

Karel encouraged members to contact the Board with any concerns, or questions they may have.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer David Bailey provided a brief update on the Civic Association's finances. Since June 30, another \$3,400 in dues and \$1,390 in donations have been received. That means that to date, \$13,440 in dues and \$10,670 in donations have been received.

He thanked members who have made donations, noting that they fund special projects around the village. Total revenue year to date comes to \$24,460, tracking well against our 2023 budget.

So far, incurred expenses are \$20,800, versus our full year expense budget of \$34,900. The 2023 budget included the new picnic tables for Larsen Park, but those were actually paid for last December. This year, we approved two scholarships (\$6,000 in total) and then at our last Board meeting we approved the purchase of two defibrillators. The two together will cost approximately \$5,500 and are not included in year-to-date expenses.

We have total cash of \$138,000 with \$103,500 in our Rockland Trust account and \$34,500 held by the Community Fund for Nantucket.

David anticipated that expenses in 2023 will modestly exceed our revenues, resulting in a small cash drawdown. With our large cash balance, we are very comfortable with the expected drawdown.

Lastly, for those not at our first summer meeting, he noted that the approved budget for 2024 is very comparable with the full year 2022 and what we expect for the current year: dues of \$13,800, donations of \$10,000 and expenses of \$29,000.

The approved budget for 2024 is attached.

## **Bike and Scooter Safety Day Report**

Board member Emily Maletta reported on our annual bike and scooter safety day for our young 'Sconset residents, held on July 19th this year in partnership with the Nantucket Police Department.

Emily reported that we had over 40 kids participate and thanked Officer Cassie Thompson and her colleague for teaching them the rules of the road on our very own obstacle course right outside the Casino. It even had a rotary just like our own here in the village.

After completing the course, each participant got a fun bike safety shirt, a bike bell, and a free ice cream at the market.

Emily reminded members that bike safety is very important in our village as we see more and more traffic on our roads. She asked parents to please bring their kids next year for a refresher course and to remind them to wear helmets.

## **Clean Team Report**

Board member Tom Loughlin reported on the Clean Team for Dan Weber (Clean Team Lead), who was unable to attend the meeting.

The Clean Team did clean-ups on June 10 and July 8 with more than 20 volunteers at each event. Some members also participated in a Nantucket Clean Team event on Low Beach on July 22.

Overall, the village looks terrific, thanks to these efforts. Fortunately, most of the clean-up this year has involved picking up bits of plastic, cigarette butts near construction sites, and detritus tossed into hedges. Very few large or bulky trash items are being found anymore.

Tom reminded members of the clean-ups scheduled for the rest of the year (the second Saturday of the month through October) and encouraged members to register for these on the Civic Association website.

## **Dark Sky Update: ‘Sconset Streetlights**

President Karel Greenberg gave an update about the Dark Sky initiative as it relates to streetlights in ‘Sconset. Gail Walker, a former Civic Association board member and the founder of Nantucket Lights, was invited to speak about this but was ill and asked Karel to convey the following:

- The new outdoor lighting bylaw adopted in May at Nantucket’s Annual Town Meeting doesn’t go into effect until January 1. If complaints about malfunctioning streetlights are made to the Town before then, we could end up with streetlights that are not dark sky or neighbor friendly as the Town won’t be bound by the standards in the new bylaw.
- Regarding the **shorter, decorative streetlights**, Gail has reached out to the manufacturer of those to find out what it would cost to make all of them dark sky compliant and how soon it could be done. If the Civic Association could offer to cover the cost of this, the upgrade might be able to happen sooner than if we wait for the Town to do this on its own, given the budgeting process and competing priorities.
- Regarding the **streetlights that are on utility poles**, the upgrade of these is more complicated because they are currently owned by National Grid rather than

the Town. To have truly dark sky friendly fixtures anytime soon, the Town would need to buy the existing fixtures from National Grid and then replace them with LED fixtures that are better than the ones that National Grid is currently willing to install. That's what many towns have done, and the cost savings have been significant. The problem, as the Town Manager sees it, is that this would require contracting with a company on the Cape to handle the installation and subsequent maintenance needs, which she worries would be too burdensome. That is what several towns on Martha's Vineyard have done, though, so Gail is still trying to convince her that this is the way to go. The alternative is to hold off converting any more of these fixtures to LED until National Grid is willing to install fixtures that meet the standards of the new bylaw.

- On both fronts – the decorative streetlights as well as the streetlights on utility poles – the bottom line is, please be patient and let Gail continue her dark sky advocacy on our behalf.
- In the meantime, there are things we can all do to stay safe where streetlights are not working -- and even where they are:
  - First and foremost, drive slowly!
  - When walking at night, carry a flashlight, wear light or reflective clothing, and walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
  - When biking at night, use front and rear bike lights.

If members have any questions or want to discuss any of this with Gail, she can be reached through the Nantucket Lights website or by sending an email to [nantucketlights@gmail.com](mailto:nantucketlights@gmail.com).

## **Tribute to Retiring Police Chief William Pittman**

President Karel Greenberg presented Chief Pittman with a gift in appreciation for his service and gave the following tribute:

“Tonight, we honor our police Chief William Pittman, a twenty-year veteran of the police force who was hired after serving 22 years as a lieutenant in the Springfield, Illinois police department. Promoted to chief in 2004, Bill has led a busy department handling the mundane things like permits and parking tickets to the Fourth of July beach parties, security for visiting dignitaries such as the President and Governor and special events like the Boston Pops benefit at Jetties Beach.

Although we think of the island as a bit of paradise, within months of being promoted to Chief, Bill had to handle a murder investigation. Other investigations included missing person cases, the vandalization of the African Meeting House and drug trafficking. Some might remember his appearance on the Today Show

with Savannah Guthrie after the January 2015 big storm that knocked out power across the island for days.

Bill is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a B.A. and later earned a Master of Public Administration. He has had additional training in Public Safety at Northwestern University and attended the FBI Academy in Quantico for executive development.

The village of Sconset would like to thank Chief Pittman for his dedication to public safety and his unwavering focus on making the police department stronger, efficient and an effective partner with the fire department, Fairwinds and other town agencies.”

### **Featured Speaker: Select Board Member Matt Fee**

President Karel Greenberg introduced our August speaker, Select Board Member Matt Fee, with these remarks:

“Now in his fifth term on the Select Board, Matt was endorsed by the Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror because he “is often the voice of reason and the only person on the board pushing for long-term planning, advocating for affordable housing, and focusing on the future with issues like coastal resiliency and sea-level rise. He is the voice of fiscal responsibility on the board, questioning the potential unintended consequences of a vote.” Matt is a member of the County Commission, the Audit Committee, the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee, and the Polpis Harbor Municipal Property Advisory Group.

A Harvard graduate with a degree in economics, Matt was the co-chair of the Nantucket Tipping Point and a founder of Sustainable Nantucket. Matt is the proud owner of Something Natural and is celebrating his 40th summer serving delicious sandwiches, sourdough bread and cookies to a very large and loyal audience.

A dedicated preservationist, his renovation of the former bake shop on Orange Street now houses his wife’s knitting shop Flock. He reused the ornate façade from the now demolished Monument Square Grocery Store and repurposed floorboards, beams, and windows. The winner of the Nantucket Preservation Trust Award, the property has a preservation easement.”

Mr. Fee then spoke about his appreciation for the work of the Civic Association and applauded the effort of our community to address and take ownership of the safety and welfare of our village. By focusing on the things like bike safety, Bluff Walk signs, parking management, and road conditions, he said we have a great impact on the quality of village life. He believes an appreciation of community and our past is crucial going into the future, and he’s glad to see the efforts of citizens to take responsibility for their community.

Mr. Fee reported that the inability to hire and provide housing to Town employees is the biggest impediment to delivering services on the island. At peak periods, businesses and government are simply overwhelmed with demand. Other areas on Nantucket need to take more responsibility. Nantucketers need to learn to bring people together for the betterment of the island.

Following his remarks, Mr. Fee responded to questions about limiting the number of cars on the island, the possibility of a cap on building on the island, a proposed roundabout at the intersection of Nobadeer Farm and Milestone roads, the short-term rental (STR) proposal suggested by the now defunct STR working group, the proposed warrant article for public sewers in Codfish park, the need for satellite fire stations, and various options for reducing traffic congestion on the island.

Mr. Fee again noted that hiring, retention and housing are the biggest barriers to improving services on the island, but he remains very optimistic about the future of the island notwithstanding its current challenges.

## **COSKATA-COATUE: A Refuge on the Edge (Film)**

Dr. Jen Karberg, representing the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and Ms. Lang, representing the Trustees of Reservations, introduced this new documentary film, which was then screened for members.

During the Q&A that followed, it was noted that the Refuge must adapt to rising sea levels. By 2070, areas of refuge will be wet at every high tide, and there will be a 3-4 feet of sea level rise in the harbor. Coatue slows down storm impact on the island and is important to protect.

There are two current priorities for preservation: Coskata pond and the Haul-Over. But ultimately these areas will have to close to vehicle access due to flooding. Vehicle access is a privilege and unfortunately, it's not forever. The trails will not be usable. The average elevation of Coatue 15-20 feet above sea level in comparison to the highest on the island is at 110 feet.

It was noted in response to a member question that the population of gray seals on Great Point is now at normal historic levels. Not a new phenomenon.

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation and the Trustees are studying erosion to see whether these areas can be built up with intertidal oyster beds, dune systems and the creation of salt marshes. The goal is to protect these cherished spaces for the next generation.

To support the Coskata pond and the Refuge, we need to adapt to coastal resiliency issues and learn more about the refuge as we develop programs to increase resiliency of the refuge. Dr. Karberg and Ms. Lang encouraged Civic Association members to get involved. They reminded members to take a trip out to Coatue to witness this ecology now as it will not be here forever.

**The meeting was ADJOURNED at approximately 7:30 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Boe, Secretary**

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# SIASCONSET CIVIC ASSOCIATION BUDGET - 2023 & 2024

8/3/23

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 YTD August 3rd	2024 Approved Budget
<b>INCOME:</b>					
<b>Dues</b>	\$13,760.00	\$13,400.00	\$13,800.00	\$13,440.00	\$13,800.00
– Bank	\$5,480.00	\$4,440.00		\$2,520.00	
– Online	\$8,280.00	\$8,960.00		\$10,920.00	
<b>Donations</b>	\$16,050.00	\$9,720.00	\$12,000.00	\$10,670.00	\$10,000.00 1)
– Bank	\$12,690.00	\$7,210.00		\$6,190.00	
– Online	\$3,360.00	\$2,510.00		\$3,980.00	
– Community Fdn for Nantucket				\$500.00	
Interest Earned	\$10.91	\$10.90	\$11.00	\$6.07	\$11.00
Miscellaneous				\$204.96 2)	
T-Shirt Sales		\$760.00	\$400.00 3)	\$140.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$29,810.00</b>	<b>\$23,890.90</b>	<b>\$26,211.00</b>	<b>\$24,461.03</b>	<b>\$23,811.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
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)	\$683.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance + Permits	\$416.00	\$635.00	\$650.00	\$635.00	\$650.00
Landscaping/Beautification	\$15,810.16	\$11,849.19	\$16,000.00 6)	\$6,388.33	\$10,000.00
Meetings/Refreshments	\$168.00	\$2,689.91	\$3,500.00	\$2,022.80	\$3,500.00
Miscellaneous					
Merchandise		\$1,750.16		\$152.76	
Online Payment Fees	\$418.61	\$510.06	\$0.00 7)	\$441.20	\$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	\$6,000.00	\$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
Web-Related	\$3,480.10	\$3,458.48	\$4,000.00	\$159.27	\$4,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$27,297.88</b>	<b>\$28,927.16</b>	<b>\$34,910.00</b>	<b>\$20,828.24</b>	<b>\$29,353.50</b>
<b>Transfer from Bank Cash Balance</b>			<b>\$8,699.00</b>		<b>\$5,542.50</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,512.12</b>	<b>(\$5,036.26)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,632.79</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Cash Balances:</b>					
Rockland Trust Balance	\$105,636.89	\$100,555.73		\$103,566.52	
Sconset Civic Assn Fund @ CFN	\$35,088.40	\$33,249.67		\$34,542.49	
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$140,725.29</b>	<b>\$133,805.40</b>		<b>\$138,109.01</b>	

**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.