

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS

Minutes of Public meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, February 3, 2024 via Zoom

1. Attending members: Kathy Baird, Lou Bassano, Gary Beller, Gene Briskman, Patti Deuster, Lynn Filipski, Bill Gardner, Don Green, Peter Halle, Peter Kahn, Ralph Kuncel, Donna Martino, Steve Perelman, and Scott Ulm. Member absent: Pam Suan.
2. At 10:02 AM the Chair Peter Halle convened the meeting and read the Virtual Meeting Script confirming a quorum was present.
3. The Agenda for today's meeting was moved for approval, seconded and passed unanimously.
4. Approval of minutes from the January 6, 2024 meeting was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.
5. Donna provided an update on the recent meetings of the Town Council Study Committee (TCSC). At their last meeting, Michael Dutton (Town Manager of Bridgewater) spoke about their experience moving from a town meeting form of government to a town council. At the next meeting the Collins Institute (Public Policy) and Libby Gibson (Town Manager) will speak. Guest Curtis Barnes was recognized to speak and he cited the benefit of town council providing a voice to all citizens, not just those permitted to vote. The TGSC plans to meet with all civic associations for outreach and input. Timeline for implementation of a new form of government will be about 2 years through the local and state review process. All four available forms of government are being considered but town council appears to be the favored form in the group. It was agreed that Peter H. will draft proposed language for the TGSC to consider regarding the role of non-voting taxpayers in the future form of government.
6. Lynn Filipski noted that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee did not meet in January and has no chair or meetings yet scheduled. Lynn believes they plan to update Chapter 57 of the town code and Mike Burns will play a role in that effort.
7. Kathy provided an overview of the STR Articles on the 2024 ATM warrant including dialogue among the sponsors of the 3 general bylaws (60-62) to come to a consensus to avoid confusion and present a united front. The proposed zoning bylaw (59) would be a companion article to any of the proposed general bylaws as it clarifies the town position that STRs are permitted uses in all residential zones and adds the requirement to also be in compliance with all current and future versions of Chapter 123 of the town code that regulates and restricts STRs.
8. Kathy provided an update on the status of the STR litigation (no rulings yet) and STR registry launch which is now slated for March with a volunteer team supporting the initial test and 'soft launch' which will include a dozen or so STR operators to vet and suggest improvements to the process. The registry will be open until 1 November for STR operators to register their properties for 2025.
9. Peter H. turned the discussion to Article 64 (town article) vs. Article 65 (citizen-sponsored) relating to the car rental medallion (Turo) situation. Peter sent a letter from ACNVT to the town opposing Article 65 and he will keep ACNVT informed.
10. Gary Beller noted there were no non-voting taxpayer issues associated with Article 67 to set up Coastal Resilience Districts (a new concept in MA to provide a better path to get funding) and a focus on districts that have such issues. The Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee (CRAC) defines Nantucket as a district with sub-districts.

11. Peter H. noted Article 79 (paragraph M) proposes to set up and finance an affordable housing bank through a .5% transfer fee on the seller on property sales over \$2M. Curtis Barnes was recognized by the Chair and explained that this article had already been approved by ATM but since the legislature took no action, it has to be voted on again. Governor Healy is in full support of these home-rule petitions so passage is much more likely now.
12. Peter H. noted Article 81 which includes a provision to amend the sewer act to waive sewer connection fees to those qualified for a residential exemption. Discussion around discriminatory language vs. needs-based waivers resulted in a motion approved unanimously for Peter H. to send a letter to the Select Board/FINCOM to recommend a wording change to support only a needs-based waiver.
13. Peter H. noted that the Town Government Study Committee Article is a resubmittal due to the legislature taking no action on the same, previously passed warrant article.
14. Guest Amy DiSibio was recognized by Peter H. regarding her concerns about Articles 77 and 78 (Good Neighbor Agreements). It was agreed that the breadth of this subject deserved more time for discussion and was tabled until our next meeting.
15. Steve Perelman asked guests to share how they heard about this ACNVT meeting and respondents indicated they learned about it via the I&M and Nantucket Current.
16. The next ACNVT meeting will be held via Zoom on 10am Saturday March 2 with no invited speaker.
17. Motion to adjourn was seconded and passed unanimously at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Baird, Secretary

The following link represents the recording of this meeting located on the Town of Nantucket YouTube website. [ACNVT Meeting recording for February 3, 2024](#)