



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

January 8th, 2024 4PM – Minutes

**131 PLEASANT STREET, TRAILER ROOM A AND REMOTE
PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM**

Staff:	Susan Carmel, Assistant Finance Director; Noah Karberg Airport Manager
Attending Members:	Denice Kronau, Chair, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Jeremy Bloomer, Rob Giacchetti, Joseph Wright, Christopher Glowacki, Joanna Roche
Absent Members:	Jill Vieth

Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

- Denice Kronau initiates the meeting, ensuring no unauthorized screen sharing and requests approval of the agenda.
- Approval of the agenda is moved by Stephen Maury and seconded by Peter Schaeffer, with a roll call vote confirming approval.
- Public comment is opened, but no comments are raised, and it is closed by Denice Kronau.
- Motion to approve the agenda, moved by Stephen Maury, seconded by Peter Schaeffer.
Roll call vote: Roche – aye, Giacchetti - aye, Glowacki - aye, Maury - aye, Bloomer - aye, Schaeffer- aye, Wright - aye, Kronau- aye.
- Public comment is opened, but no comments are raised, and it is closed by Denice Kronau.

Discussion on Meeting Minutes and Article G

- Denice Kronau mentions the potential adoption of meeting minutes from January 31, 2023, but postpones it to the next meeting due to lack of review.
- Cliff Williams, who is supposed to discuss Citizen Warrant Articles I and J, will attend on Thursday instead.
- Discussion on Article G, Chapter 58, regarding equal access to vehicle rental medallions, is initiated.
- Miss McCloskey faces technical difficulties but eventually joins the discussion.

Arguments Against Article G

- John Burton, representing Nantucket Rent a Car and Affordable Car Rentals, urges the committee to oppose Article G.
- Burton highlights the historical context of Chapter 58, which limited rental cars to 700 and required medallions from the Select Board.
- He argues that increasing the number of medallions from 700 to 1000 would increase traffic and administrative burdens.
- Burton points out that there is no shortage of rental vehicles and that some medallion holders are hoarding unused medallions.

Administrative and Enforcement Challenges

- Amy Baxter, the licensing administrator, explains the current medallion distribution and management process.
- She mentions the practice of allowing unused medallions to be paid for, which she believes should end.
- Baxter suggests setting a deadline for medallion applications to ensure they are used or redistributed.
- Noah Karberg, the airport manager, discusses the financial impact of Turo and Turo-like operators on airport revenue.

Financial and Operational Impact of Turo

- Karberg provides statistics on the decline in airport rental car revenue and the increase in Turo activity.
- He estimates that Turo-like operators are generating significant revenue and impacting the local market.
- Karberg emphasizes the importance of considering the opinions of incumbent rental car operators at the airport.
- The discussion shifts to the cost of rental cars and the potential impact of increasing the number of medallions.

Debate on Medallion Allocation and Market Demand

- Stephen Maury questions the demand for additional rental cars and the impact on traffic.
- Rob raises concerns about the cost of rental cars and the need for a more competitive market.

- The committee discusses the potential revenue neutrality of increasing the number of medallions.
- The conversation highlights the need for a clear understanding of the market demand and the administrative challenges of managing medallions.

Rebecca's Perspective on Article G

- Rebecca, the sponsor of the warrant article, expresses frustration with the process and the lack of clarity in the meeting.
- She argues that the traffic issue is due to the increase in cars transported via the car ferry, not the number of rental cars.
- Rebecca emphasizes the need for a fair assessment of the rental car market and the impact of Turo.
- The committee discusses the need for Rebecca to present her article in a future meeting and the process for making recommendations.

Assignment of Budget Review Tasks

- The committee assigns departments for the review of the operating budget, including police, Harbor Master, emergency preparedness, fire, water, airport, sewer, storm water, general fund, DPW, solid waste, and island home.
- The committee members volunteer for various departments, ensuring a thorough review of the budget.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 11 to discuss short-term rental bylaws and other articles.
- The committee is informed about the upcoming solid waste presentation and the need to attend if possible.

Committee Reports and Future Meetings

- Jill provides an update on the preliminary report of the town council study committee, noting the high-level discussions on the charter and process.
- Jeremy mentions the need for feedback on the zoning aspect of changing the form of government.
- The committee agrees to discuss the zoning issue in a future meeting to provide feedback to the town council study committee.

- Motion to adjourn, made by Chris Glowacki, seconded by Stephen Maury. **Roll call vote:**
Roche - aye, Giachetti - aye, Glowacki - aye, Maury- aye, Bloomer - aye, Schaeffer-
aye, Wright - aye, Kronau - aye.