

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, December 8, 2022

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Curtis Barnes, Robert Benchley, Nelson Eldridge and John Pearl were present. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director and Linda Roberts – Project Coordinator. *Public:* Nantucket Land Council Executive Director Emily Molden and their Attorney Dennis Murphy.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made to accept the agenda as presented by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimously accepted.
3. **Public Comment:** To accommodate our guest the Chairman went directly to Item #6-a the Solar Project. Emily Molden and Dennis Murphy spoke to their concerns regarding Article 97. They are concerned with outside pressures that would diminish Article 97 protections forever. Attorney Murphy proposed having the Commission sign a statement to protect the water companies' property specifying "intent not to change." Chairman Reinhard spoke about regulations, the protections in place and would argue that sola supports the operation of water. Attorney Murphy would like to draft the article and have it recorded at the Registry of Deeds so it would further protect the property for the future challenges of any other intent that might be disputed later. Attorney Murphy spoke about risks and challenges of protection under Article 97 and other towns. Discussion about the history of the proposed Solar plans was reviewed and its need and the benefit it would provide continued. The guests thanked the Commission for taking their concerns under consideration and left the room at 8:40 AM.
4. **Review of Minutes from the October 13 and November 10, 2022 meetings.** Motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commission Eldridge to accept both meeting minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.
5. **Production, Billing and Rainfall Reports:** Director Willett commented on the precipitation. Pumpage is on the normal trend downward for this time of year. Billing is going well since the installation of the new antenna and staff are working with anyone needing time to pay.
6. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Solar Project:** Sun Power is now Total Energies. They are buying up several of the smaller solar companies. Discussion about the proposed size and the life expectancy and degrading from time took place.
 - b. **West of Airport Main Project:** Work on extending the water main and transportation project continues. There is a meeting today to review the area. Supply chain issue continue to be a problem. Hydrants will take at least ten months before they are available.
 - c. **2024 Budget:** There is a preliminary meeting today and will discuss purchasing materials, capital projects and everything else we need. Suppliers and contractors are working with others to get what we need. Staff are working with the Finance Director so we may purchase from all supply vendors: Ti-Sales, E J Prescott, Cape Winwater and Plumbers Supply. Costs will be for a short time frame and materials may not be available.
 - d. **Fees:** Director Willett discussed the fees for fire service, cross connection testing. Might consider a small increase given the costs and time it takes.

- e. **Staff:** Director Willett discussed the need to have an engineer on staff that could assist with other work and possibly a part time person to help with administration work. He has an intern who has housing interested in working with him next summer.
7. **Execution of Contracts or Amendments if any pending:** The contracts for Harris Computer System Billing and water sampling are still with the finance department. We may need to have a special meeting to have them reviewed and approved if we can't wait for January 12.
8. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** None.
9. **Adjournment:** As there was no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl, and unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 10:09 AM.

Approved: Allen B. Reinhardt

Date: January 12, 2023

Meeting packet included 12/8/22 Agenda and reports.