

Approved Minutes (*adopted 12.19.22*)
NP&EDC Meeting
Monday, November 21, 2022, 5:00pm
Remote Participation via Zoom Webinar

A video recording of the meeting may be view using the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7EVqZ82OfA>**Call to Order:**

Chairman Longacre called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Establishment of Quorum:

In attendance:

Commission:

Mary Longacre, Chair
Barry Rector, Vice Chair
Bertyl Johnson
Seth Engelbourg
Joseph Topham
Wendy Hudson
Dawn Holdgate
David Iverson
Nat Lowell (arrived at 5:21)
John Trudel (arrived at 5:45)

Staff:

Andrew Vorce, Director of Planning
Leslie Snell, Deputy Director of Planning
Patrick Reed, Transportation Program Manager
Billy Saad, Land Use Specialist
Raissah Kouame, MassDOT
Paula Leary, NRTA Administrator

Approval of Agenda:

Bertyl Johnson moved to approve the agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Barry Rector, and the motion carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Public Comments:

Action / Discussion Items:

Presentation– Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, Weston & Sampson

Longacre: We have a presentation from the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. This is a rough draft first look that comes in at 398 pages with supporting materials. We would like a written comment by December 12, in order to bring it back for a final look. I will say I was very happy to see the continuing theme of the collaboration between the town, school, and conservation

organizations to figure out how the community can benefit from all the different spaces and resources that we have available.

Chamber of Commerce, Presentation on Summer 2022 Economic Activity, Peter Burke

Burke – The purpose of the survey sent out to the membership was meant to be an overview of how 2022 was. Of the 800+ members, we received 29 respondents. What was encouraging in that small sample size is over half of the respondents have experienced growth. The data is incomplete due to this small sample size, but we hope to fill out the data more completely between now and the end of the year regarding staffing and housing. Only 2 of the 29 respondents experienced decline.

Longacre – Thank you and I hope you'll send a final copy of the results to the planning dept. so we can review.

Hudson – Proud to be 1 of 30 that responded. Is there a better way to get a better response or take advantage of stroll? I think the questions were good. We all hear things about staffing/housing etc. but knowing how it's impacting people is important.

Burke – Happy it elicited a few direct responses. The more engaging we can get, the better the chamber can operate. Economic growth and housing are both very important issues, and we have to make sure we're listening to our members' needs.

Public Hearing - TIP Amendment, NRTA Low Emissions Vehicles, close 21-day comment period

Reed – This is a grant awarded to NRTA and the TIP is being amended to accept the grant and support the purchase of low or no-emission vehicles.

Bertyl Johnson moved to close the public hearing. The motion was duly seconded by Dawn Holdgate, and the motion carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Longacre – Congratulations to Paula Leary on her 30 years of service and retirement from the NRTA.

Dave Iverson moved to approve the amendment. The motion was duly seconded by Nat Lowell and the motion carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Public Hearing - FY23 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment, close 21-day comment period

Reed – This is an amendment to reduce the town's overhead rate and reallocate the budget as well as a couple of small administrative items relating to more grants and personnel. Did not receive any comments.

Nat Lowell moved to close the public hearing. The motion was duly seconded by Dawn Holdgate and the motion carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Barry Rector moved to approve the amendment. The motion was duly seconded by Nat Lowell and the motion carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Discussion – Parking and Traffic Commission

Reed – I received some questions regarding the past few select board meetings about the consolidation of BPAC into a group that reviews traffic safety items and paid parking needs. This stems from a paid parking presentation I made to help the town solidify its decision points if it were to choose to move forward and what it would take. The outcome was that Selectboard wanted to establish a commission to look at paid parking. When the town returned to ask for guidance, they brought a proposal of who would be on this advisory parking commission. The thought was this body could help shape the direction of parking policy including paid parking and response to other parking items. This commission would include the consolidation of some of the work reviewed by the Traffic Safety Work Group. Adding BPAC to this consolidated commission is complicated due to the fact that BPAC reports to NP&EDC. The town ultimately decided to focus on traffic and parking only with this new commission. The Select Board voted to approve a body for this new traffic and parking commission at the 11/9/22 meeting.

The membership will be comprised of:

- 1 Nantucket Town Association representative
- 1 Advisory Committee of non-voting taxpayer representative
- 1 Chamber of Commerce representative
- 1 Resident residing within a current parking district
- 1 Resident residing beyond the current parking district
- 1 NRTA representative
- 1 Representative with PE experience

The intent of this group is to focus on parking/curbside management, loading/unloading freight, and other traffic safety related items like speeds etc. The Select Board did leave the opportunity for the NP&EDC to offer amendments as desired if necessary. The Parking Coordinator will be the liaison for this group.

Longacre – This is an opportunity for commissioners to comment on BPAC w/ this newly created commission. Whether or not to have BPAC involvement with this other group. whether we're comfortable with the way this turned out or if we have any other suggestions that we can pass through Patrick that might help the mission of this potential new combined entity.

Lowell – Patrick, thank you. We've been communicating with Patrick frequently regarding downtown parking. I know it has nothing to do with us and it's not our decision. The Traffic Safety workgroup has been set up for a long time the way it is. They look at things similar to the way the planning board reviews second curb cuts in town. They have a lot of experience, including fire and police chiefs. Art Gasparro has been doing this for nearly 20 years. I personally think that the town needs to have that kind of level of thinking for certain requests. Concerned that things may become too simplified. Doesn't feel right and thinks things could be done slightly differently. The parking coordinator should be working in coordination w/ the transportation planner. Asked Patrick what he thinks?

Reed - from my perspective, I was concerned about potential situations where you have different groups advocating for different things and volleying staff back and forth. Some of these larger cities that have a single commission take the burden off staff as you get multiple perspectives in the same place and the burden kind of falls on the folks in the room to talk and work it out. It builds this sort

of collegiality that I think is helpful and important. I do agree with Nat. I think some of these decisions are particular and context sensitive and I think the work that the traffic safety work group has been doing is always well thought out. I think the paid parking item makes sense because the town's been looking at it for 10 years, so it's good to move it along and figure out what you want to do with it.

Engelbourg – I'm in favor of consolidating the groups. I think there's a benefit to having all transportation-related items in one place. Especially when dealing with issues like downtown parking. Some of the work will need advocacy for alternative transportation. Without considering things like micro-mobility and extended public transit they're not going to be effective. Expert experience will be required and lots of committees within the town have specific requirements for committee members. Maybe make some of the seats restricted to people with relevant professional backgrounds. Thinks all 3 commissions should be consolidated – parking commission, traffic safety workgroup, and BPAC.

Reed – Some of the work BPAC is doing right now is overlapping the work of the Traffic Safety workgroup. Thinks combining BPAC and TSWG could make it more efficient.

Iverson – Thinks BPAC and TSWG work better together as they review similar items. Parking commission could operate independently.

Rector – In favor of combining all 3 groups. Agrees there is overlap between BPAC and TSWG and consolidating makes more sense than having the two groups work against one another. As we're getting into other modes of transportation like e-bikes etc, the issues become more complex about how those two interrelate with each other. Paid parking will require a lot of reorganization of the downtown area and it's going to include dealing w/ bikes and pedestrians. This is an opportunity to coordinate all 3 groups and make them better functioning. If it doesn't end up working, there is always the opportunity to go back to how they've been operating previously.

Topham – As a member of BPAC, doesn't think consolidating all 3 groups will work. Thinks all 3 groups should remain separate and 3-4 members of each group could be included on the new commission to work collectively.

Longacre – Can see the benefits of having 1 group address many issues. One concern is pedestrians and cyclists would lose their voice because they'd be drowned out by the number of people addressing car issues. Appreciates the value of having a separate BPAC. The other concern is more logistical. How do you merge those groups considering that BPAC is a subcommittee of NPEDC. How does that affect the information we receive and our planning process? Don't think those questions were addressed in the proposal to merge the groups. Wonder if alternate structures could be found. For instance - having joint meetings of the Committees every quarter to address issues together and then having the Committees meet on their individual topics the other two months for other potential solutions to the issues. We've got a lot of traffic issues and appreciate the many people devoting their time to address them. Something could evolve over time, but caution to keep BPAC separate.

Holdgate – Thinks something could evolve over time, but BPAC should be kept separate for now. Will be a tremendous job to get the parking coordinator and commission operating but feels BPAC will be lost in the shuffle. Maybe it can be combined in the future, but more thought should be

given to this. If we do move forward with paid parking, it's going to need substantial tweaks to work properly.

Transportation Program Manager Update

Reed – Students from WPI continue to work on their project related to freight operations. Thanks to the WPI students for their substantial research efforts, website updates, and general organization of the transportation planning website. Has been working with the Outreach Coordinator for the town who manages the website. The goals are to improve users' ability to find information, improve access to federal-required public review documents and provide more information about regional planning. Will be adding a long-range transportation plan. The state has also been working on a long-range transportation plan and has branded it "Beyond Mobility". Massdot is hoping to have two community groups interested in participating in what they're calling "a meeting in a box". This would be facilitated by MassDot w/ NPEDC staff support. MassDot is looking for community involvement to gain additional perspectives related to transportation. BPAC will meet next week to continue the conversation on micromobility and an update on "nuisance stop signs". We have 3 grants awaiting a decision but have not received feedback to date.

Longacre – Understands BPAC just started meeting, but wondering if BPAC will have recommendations for ATM articles?

Reed – BPAC has met twice. It's at the discretion of the group and whether they're ready to put something together.

Discussion – 2023 Annual Town Meeting, List of Warrant Articles of Potential Planning Concern

Longacre – This is an early look at potential topics for ATM warrant articles and possible suggestions for the planning department. Would Andrew like to introduce any of the information?

Vorce – Thinks group is familiar w/ schedule and calendars relating to ATM. 26 citizen warrant articles – 16 are related to zoning and the remainder would require a recommendation from the Finance Committee. Zoning articles go before the planning board for recommendations and then the Finance Committee offers its opinion. This agenda item is to introduce what these articles will be, and we'll have a specific agenda item to occur at a future meeting to discuss which of these might be of planning concern and what comments might be. This is here to get everyone thinking about it. Will most likely be on the December agenda.

Discussion – NP&EDC Mission

Longacre – We've been looking at various documents that are foundational to NPEDC. Andrew has provided information about the planning board which he is going to introduce. His point was that we need to understand the difference between the planning board and NPEDC.

Andrew Vorce slide presentation is attached at the end of this document.

Longacre – 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the NPEDC. It's important to have some self-reflection. What is our mission? I encourage everyone to give that some thought so we can further this

discussion.

2023 NP&EDC Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule is attached at the end of this document.

David Iverson moved to adopt the 2023 meeting schedule. The motion was duly seconded by Joseph Topham, and the motion carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Other Committee updates/reports

Other Business

Adjournment

Bertyl Johnson moved to adjourn the November 21, 2022 NP&EDC meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Dawn Holdgate, and the motion carried **UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm

Submitted by: Billy Saad

Planning Board Powers & Duties



- Prepare a comprehensive/master plan (MGL c 41 §81D)
- Propose, review, hold hearings and make recommendations on zoning bylaw/ordinance changes (text & map)
- Review and act on subdivisions - preliminary & definitive plans (MGL c. 41, § 81K-81GG)
- Review and sign Approval Not Required (ANR) plans
- May be a Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA)
- Review & act on Site Plan Reviews/Approvals

Planning Board Powers & Duties (continued)



- ~~May hire & supervise planner~~ — **CHARTER**
- Review & make recommendations to the ZBA
(Special permits, comprehensive permits.)
- Review & act on Scenic Road changes
- Review & act on Repetitive Petitions
- Initiate planning projects/plans
- Review requests to remove property from MGL c. 61
- May review & recommend capital improvements
- Other duties as authorized by bylaw, charter

Master & Other Plans



- MGL c. 41, § 81D – Master Plans, assigns legal responsibility to the **Planning Board** for the creation and approval of Master Plan
- Other plans a board might be involved with include:
 - Downtown
 - Economic Development
 - Neighborhood/Area
 - Corridor
 - Housing



The NP&EDC was created by Warrant Article 5 of the January 25, 1973 Special Town Meeting of the Town of Nantucket and by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pursuant to Chapter 561 of the Acts of 1973, as amended by Warrant Article 117 of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting and Chapter 98 of the Acts of 1981 and Warrant Article 57 of the Annual Town Meeting of 1991 and Chapter 458 of the Acts of 1991, and by Chapter 81 of the Acts of 2011, and by Chapter 347 of the Acts of 2018. NP&EDC is the only regional planning agency (RPA) representing one town, the Town of Nantucket.

In Section 1 of the enabling legislation, the commission was established In order to plan for the orderly and coordinated development and protection of the physical, social and economic resources of the Island of Nantucket.

In Section 2, the Commission shall be responsible for the preparation of comprehensive plans for the physical, social, and economic development of said County and Town and shall make recommendations for action to implement said plans to the responsible county and town agencies. Such plans shall include, but not be limited to, the preparation of studies, research reports and maps of natural resources, land utilization, economic development, recreation and conservation, transportation and population characteristics.

In Article 5, 1973 STM, "Such commission shall plan for the future of the villages of Wauwinet, Quidnet, Siasconset, Surfside, Madaket, Pocomo, Tom Nevers, Dionis, Cisco and the Town of Nantucket and make any recommendations it deems beneficial."



2023 Meeting Schedule

*Meetings will be conducted via Zoom Webinar until further notice
Registration instructions will be provided on each agenda*

Schedule is subject to change

- Monday, January 23rd at 5:00pm
- Thursday, February 23rd at 5:00pm
- Monday, March 20th at 5:00pm
- Monday, April 24th at 5:00pm
- Monday, May 15th at 5:00pm
- Monday, June 26th at 5:00pm
- Monday, July 17th at 5:00pm
- Monday, August 21st at 5:00pm
- Monday, September 18th at 5:00pm
- Monday, October 23rd at 5:00pm
- Monday, November 20th at 5:00pm
- Monday, December 18th at 5:00pm