

NP&EDC
Approved Minutes
Monday March 20th, 2023 at 6pm

To view a recording of the meeting, use the link below:
[Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission - March 20th, 2023](#)

Call to Order:

Chair Longacre called the meeting to order at 6.01pm

Establishment of a Quorum:

In Attendance:

Commission:

Mary Longacre
Barry Rector
Nat Lowell
Joe Topham
Seth Engelbourg
Dave Iverson
Kristie Ferrantella
Wendy Hudson
Bert Johnson

Staff:

Andrew Vorce, Director of Planning
Leslie Snell, Deputy Director of Planning
Megan Trudel, Land Use Specialist
Mike Burns, Transportation Manager
Raissah Koume, Regional Planning Coordinator, MassDOT

Approval of Minutes

- **December 19th, 2022**

Bert Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the December 19th, 2022 NP&EDC meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Nat Lowell and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

February 23rd, 2023 are to be continued.

Public Comments:

None

Action/Discussion Items:

Transportation Program Manager Update from Mike Burns updates on the status of various ongoing projects and studies. Mike mentioned a letter in the packet from Mass DOT's Project Review Committee approving the Milestone Road at Polpis Road intersection improvement and bike path extension project,

which is estimated to cost \$1.2 million. The project is likely to be programmed in 2025 and be eligible for construction in October 2024 at the earliest. Raissah confirmed that the information provided by Mike is correct, and the project will be prioritized in the state programming of funds. Andrew reminded Mike of the positive news on the Wauwinet side path project, which has received a \$875,000 grant approval. Mike stated that over \$2 million in federal grant funding has been approved for the project, which is estimated to cost \$4.5 million.

The meeting then moved on to the Town Area Plan, and Henry Terry, the chair of the workgroup gave an update on the plan. The work group divided into subgroups and each taking an element some preliminary work has been done by each group, we're waiting for survey data and the survey closes on the 31st, hopefully we'll have an initial submission for you this summer.

Open Space and Recreation Plan:

Andrew Vorce - the meeting is discussing the acceptance and endorsement of the open space and recreation plan, which has been updated and corrected. The plan needs to be approved by the Planning Board, NPDC, and final approval by the Select Board on April 12th. The commission accepts and endorses the plan, subject to further edits that may arise from the final public hearing.

Barry Rector moved to that the NP&EDC hereby accepts and endorses the Open Space and Recreation Plan in its current iteration subject to any further changes and edits made in advance of acceptance by the Select Board. The motion was duly seconded by Dave Iverson and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

NP & EDC'S Mission

Barry - we can focus on working with other regional areas and agencies. This can help us avoid potential overlap and ensure that we're not duplicating efforts. Additionally, it's important to be cautious with the language we use, such as terms like "social welfare," as they can have different meanings depending on who you're talking to. Finally, before we refine ourselves down to a five or ten-year strategic plan, we should focus on painting the picture with broad brush strokes and setting time-oriented objectives for each component.

Mary - having only one jurisdiction is an advantage. With multiple jurisdictions, it can be difficult to coordinate and ensure fairness in the distribution of services. Nantucket already has four agencies charged with making affordable housing a reality, so it may be best to leave it to the experts in that area.

Nat - So to summarize, there are several departments and organizations involved in planning on Nantucket, including the DPW, the Planning Board, the Water Company, the Airport, and the Sewer Department. Nat believes that better collaboration is needed among these different entities and suggests that inviting representatives from these organizations to speak to the Commission could be beneficial. They also emphasize the importance of planning and the significant effort that goes into infrastructure projects like the recent sewer line expansion to Surfside.

Seth - It's great to hear your insights on the unique challenges and opportunities of island communities, and I agree that it's important to not just see them as a detriment. Coordinating planning efforts among different entities and creating a comprehensive framework is key to achieving a common vision for the community. And I also agree that the goal should be to maintain the livability of the island for years to come and to find ways to protect and enhance the community.

Barry – Wants the commission to set some goals for their next meeting in order to start closing out some of the topics they've discussed and move onto the next stages. He suggests that they can always revisit the topics later if necessary, but it's important to start making progress. They also suggest some potential topics for the next meeting, such as discussing the name of the commission and its composition. Finally, they emphasize the importance of not getting stuck and to keep moving forward.

Other Committee Updates/Reports

Wendy - Great news about the director of rural affairs position being created in the executive office of Economic Development. It's a step in the right direction for rural policy in the state. I can understand why the rural policy advisory commission is excited about this development. Needs a letter for reappointment which she will reach out to Megan. Nantucket is rural because of the definition but a lot of the issues tend to be more Western Mass related so I can get you guys that Governor's announcement if you haven't seen it and it was really a positive thing it was announced in Franklin County so at long last there's movement.

Other Business

The next meeting is Monday April 24th at 5 p.m. and this is a week later because of Patriots Day on the 17th, we will keep you updated on the government on whether they're extending the permission for remote meetings.

- Monday, April 24th at 5pm via Zoom

Andrew - There was a joint meeting between the planning board, finance committee, and select board before this meeting and all the motions and issues have been settled. The finance committee supported all the planning board motions, which is a positive development. They have a link to an overview of the Warrant articles for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting and can provide it to those interested.

Adjournment

Barry Rector moved to adjourn the March 20th, 2023 NP&EDC meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Bert Johnson and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7.05pm

NP&EDC Executive Session
APPROVED Minutes
Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:00pm

Adjournment of Open Session:

Barry Rector moved to adjourn the Open Session of the March 20, 2023, NP&EDC meeting, to convene in Executive Session, not to return to Open Session. The motion was duly seconded by Bertyl Johnson, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Open Session was adjourned at 6:57pm.

In Attendance:

Commission:

Mary Longacre
Seth Engelbourg
Kristie Ferrentella
Wendy Hudson
Dave Iverson
Nat Lowell
Barry Rector
Joseph Topham
John Trudel

Staff:

Leslie Snell, Deputy Director of Planning
Megan Trudel, Land Use Specialist

Executive Session: Reason 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel:

Deputy Director Snell presented the proposed contract and pointed out any changes from Director Vorce's contract.

The Commission members were enthusiastic about Deputy Director Snell becoming the new Director of Planning, stating that Ms. Snell has a long history of professionalism and accomplishments at PLUS, that it's the very best possible outcome to have someone internal with the proper qualifications and longevity to be promoted.

Seth Engelbourg moved to approve the contract for Leslie Snell as the Director of Planning beginning July 1, 2023, as proposed. The motion was duly seconded by Nat Lowell and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment

Barry Rector moved to adjourn the NP&EDC Executive Session. The motion was duly seconded by Nat Lowell and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.