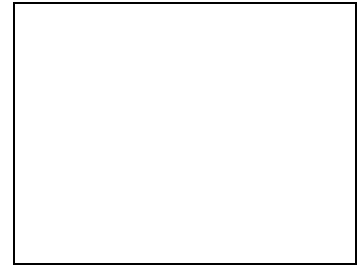




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: __8:01am__

MEETING DATE: __July 27__ Time Meeting Adjourned: __9:03am__

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Janet Schulte, Director of Culture and Tourism, David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator, Liz Holland, Mary Malavase, Peter Morrison, Matt Peel and Sharon Quigley.

ALSO PRESENT: Stephen Murphy, Chief, Nantucket Fire Department, William Pittman, Chief, Lieutenant Angus MacVicar, Nantucket Police Department, Amy Baxter, Licensing Administrator for Town of Nantucket, Chris Glowacki and Jason Graziadei.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Gray, Chair and Sarah Bois.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	VOTES / ROLL CALL
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1 Welcome VSAC Members	Janet Schulte welcomed the members of the committee to meeting. The meeting is held by Zoom video conference due to the COVID-19 outbreak. She then asked for a roll call of all members present. Director Schulte then reviewed the ground rules and script for remotely conducted open meetings via Zoom.	
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1 Approval of Minutes from July 13 and 20.	The Minutes from July 13 and 20 were unanimously approved.	5-0
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3 Continuation of Discussion About Future Scheduling of Large Island Events and their Impacts on Town Resources	Janet gave a brief summary of the July 13 th meeting with Town Manager, Libby Gibson and the July 20 th meeting with Nantucket Lodging Association members including NLA President Jamie Holmes. Libby would like the committee to provide advice to the Select Board for their workshop on August 10 when they will discuss the impact of large events including the Boston Pops, Fourth of July Fireworks and other large events on Town personnel and other Town resources for an extended time frame.
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Chief William Pittman began the discussion by reviewing the issues he is having with regard to staffing. In 2009 the department had 42 full time officers and 41 "Summer Special" officers. This seasonal group of officers was reorganized as Community Service Officers after an incident that resulted in a court ruling the reduced their powers such as no longer being able to arrest people. In 2020 and 2021, Covid-19 and the national anti-police sentiment has resulted in a shortage of full-time police and CSOs. There are only 20 CSOs that were hired for the 2021 Summer season and the department is short staffed by 6 year-round people including 4 officer positions. On a typical day, the department has 4 officers on duty when compared to a summer population of more than 50,000 people. The police chief explained that major island events including the Boston Pops, Fourth of July Fireworks, Main Street Independence Day activities as well as the Chamber of Commerce's signature events, Daffodil Festival and Christmas Stroll that had been manageable in the beginning, have become difficult to staff as those events have grown in size and complexity over time. Chief Pittman noted that manning intersections requires 2-3 people who are mostly volunteers and not paid and sometimes a volunteer might quit if they get yelled at by a someone trying to get to where they want to go and cannot wait. Other issues include the location of an event

such as the Boston Pops in which there is only one road in and out. Other concerns include the availability of private security especially after an event concludes when those personnel leave before the location has been cleared. Add to that the lack of available overnight lodging for staff, orchestra and other personnel. These people have to hurry to catch the last scheduled ferry leaving for the mainland.

Chief Stephen Murphy continued the discussion by noting that the fire department has half the staff numbers compared to the police. On a typical day they can staff 4-7 people. When there are multiple calls, off duty staff have to be called in. Chief Murphy noted that the Boston Pops requires an ambulance and 2 fire engines thereby requiring 7-10 people on site. What happens if there is an event that has mass injuries? Both chiefs explained that unlike other cities and towns, Nantucket cannot call in immediate backup from other towns because of being 30 miles at sea.

The chiefs and the committee thoughtfully discussed the situation. Possible solutions for the Boston Pops included chartering a ferry to take the event organizers, staff, orchestra and other personnel including security back at a later time to allow the event to be emptied out and broken down more efficiently. Other suggestions included creating/ scheduling smaller events that would be scheduled at different times and have less of an impact on public safety personnel. The annual Figawi sailboat race in May lowered the attendance in the tent and added private security and that lessened the problems with drunkenness that they had. One of the other issues that has been problematic to large events is limiting alcohol. Town Licensing Coordinator, Amy Baxter added that the White Elephant hotel which is the central gathering place for the annual Nantucket Wine Festival cracked down on some of the NWF events reviewing what was going on and monitoring social media posts. Amy reported that there are over 200 non-profit organizations on the island and that the Town should take advantage of the pause during the Covid-19 pandemic to reevaluate/ readjust and apply better event protocols which can be addressed at the workshop with the Select Board on August 10th. Janet thanked all who participated and noted that she will write up a suggestion list and share with the committee before forwarding to the Select Board.

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