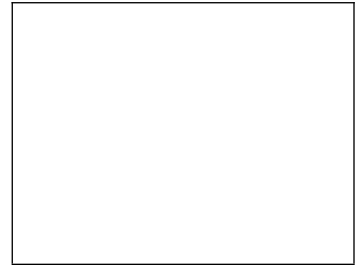




# MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: \_\_8:01am\_\_

MEETING DATE: \_\_November 9\_\_ Time Meeting Adjourned: \_\_9:05am\_\_

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Janet Schulte, Director of Culture and Tourism, David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator, Josh Gray, Chair, Sarah Bois, Liz Holland, Mary Malavase, Vice Chair, Peter Morrison and Matt Peel

ALSO PRESENT: Amy Baxter, Licensing Administrator, Town of Nantucket

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Quigley

| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION | VOTES / ROLL CALL |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|
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| <b>1 Welcome VSAC Members</b> | David Sharpe welcomed the members of the committee to meeting. The meeting is held by Zoom video conference due to the COVID-19 outbreak. He then asked for a roll call of all members present. The Visitor Services Coordinator then reviewed the ground rules and script for remotely conducted open meetings via Zoom. |  |
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| <b>2 Approval of Minutes from October 12</b> | The minutes from October were unanimously approved. | 6-0 |
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| <b>3 Discussion with Town Licensing Administrator Amy Baxter about Outdoor Dining in 2022</b> | Amy reported that she is working on the upcoming holiday licensing. This includes Thanksgiving, The Christmas Tree lighting on Friday, November 26 and Christmas Stroll Weekend, December 3-5. The goal is to try to be normal especially with the mask advisory. Amy added that most of the outdoor dining locations have pulled up their tables and chairs for the winter with the exception of the Rose and Crown and Backyard Barbeque. In general, the Licensing Administrator is reviewing to see what worked and what didn't work this year. Each restaurant needing outdoor space in 2022 will be reviewed on a case by case basis. The Town of Nantucket needs to create pedestrian access on sidewalks and also take into account retail shops and other businesses that were impacted by street closures. What are the plusses and minuses? The goal is to have paperwork ready for all restaurants by April or May. There needs to be stronger wording in the agreements as well as having an equitable fee structure. Going forward, restaurants such as Lemon Press will likely have to get a Sidewalk Permit to place tables and chairs on the sidewalk. Others may have to pay a Use of Land fee. Street closures that included North Union and Still Dock may not happen next season. Oak Street might become a pedestrian way. |  |
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Another issue is serving alcohol outdoors on the streets/ sidewalks and for takeout. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission guidelines allow for alcohol to be served within an enclosed patio area. The current state outdoor dining regulations that allow exceptions expire in May 2022. However, the state legislature is updating guidelines. In general, new rules need to reflect these changes with serving alcohol. Amy then noted that creating these outdoor dining spaces have opened up the need to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. Certain sidewalks around Proprietors and Company of the Cauldron on India Street and the Rose and Crown on South Water Street are difficult to navigate and force people into the street. Nantucket streets have structural challenges.

Amy concluded that the Town has had 2 years of experimenting with outdoor dining, learning things that never would have happened normally. More people walking around, delivery and trash truck issues, access for public safety vehicles, businesses open late. There were a lot of people on island this year and not enough staff to accommodate the demand. A framework of guidelines/ regulations, possibly one including HDC requirements needs to be developed moving forward. Having outdoor dining spaces is the new normal.

Amy disconnected at 8:56am.

**4 Director's Report** Janet reported that she is continuing to meet with public safety officials and Chamber of Commerce staff on rethinking 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. A modified water fight would be held on Main Street and the bulk of activities would be moved to Children's Beach. The reading of the Declaration of Independence may be moved to a later time. Janet then reported that she is working on the Strategic Planning Process with the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Also, a total of \$17,500 in new Cultural District grants are now available for non-profits to apply for. The Director also noted that the book for the One Book One Island program is called The Midnight Library. The Worcester Polytechnic students are developing a Citizens Academy. Janet spoke at the weekly Rotary meeting last Wednesday. She then thanked Mary and Liz with helping to volunteer with the Halloween Parade.

**5 Visitor Services Coordinator Report** David reviewed the statistics for October. The weekly restaurant list is still the most popular. He then noted that work will begin on updating the Travel and Lodging brochure for 2022. After a year off, the booklet will be printed again.

Sharon and Liz will meet to discuss developing a plan to help stranded passengers. Liz added that the Coast Guard station has 12 cots that can be donated when needed.

The next meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_