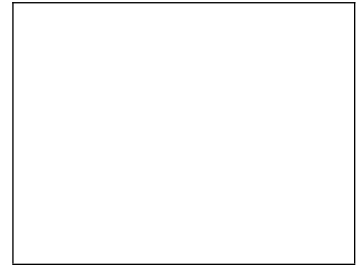




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: __8:02am__

MEETING DATE: __May 10__ Time Meeting Adjourned: __8:57am__

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

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Burke, Executive Director, Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	VOTES / ROLL CALL
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1 Welcome VSAC Members	Josh welcomed the members of the committee to meeting. Janet then reviewed the meeting rules. 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. The C&T Director also reviewed the ground rules and script for remotely conducted open meetings via Zoom.	
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2 Approval of Minutes from April 12	The minutes from April were unanimously approved.	7-0
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3 Discussion with New Chamber Director, Peter Burke	Executive Director Peter Burke reported that the recent Daffodil Festival was well attended. The weather cooperated and staff and volunteers all helped out. It was a "smashing" success. Peter noted that they will try to make the event better next year. Also, the website and newsletter will be fine-tuned. Upcoming Chamber events include a job fair at the high school this Thursday and there will be several Education Workshops in June and the Chamber will help the Town with the Fourth of July activities in the Main Street area. The committee then discussed the Nantucket Island Center for Entrepreneurship which is a recent creation within the Chamber. Led by Karen Macumber. NICE's mission is to help advise and fund new island businesses and provide free or low-cost workshops. Peter reported that he is meeting with ReMain Nantucket staff to secure spring and fall grants especially the Rock Solid Grant which helps fund small businesses. The fund is seeded by ReMain and The Town of Nantucket. Peter emphasized that that in the new Chamber guide it mentions continuing to help with the island non-profits. It was noted that Regional Tourism Council funding from the state remains flat. The new Director noted that the Chamber's Business Manager, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy did an excellent job securing state grants. Chairman Gray asked the Chamber Director about his background. Peter reported that he is from New Hampshire and helped run the Cisco Brewers location in Portsmouth, NH and worked for the company on Nantucket before that. The committee then discussed other issues including the arrival of the 2022-23 guidebooks. Due to shipping issues, they should arrive before Memorial Day weekend. The Chamber also wants to help solve the island's housing shortage as many businesses are struggling looking for staff and staying open. The committee then discussed the summer season. It is expected to be busy especially with weddings in June and many bookings on the ferry. Peter wants to make sure that people have an enriched experience on Nantucket and to make sure that they see other areas of the island.	
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Peter Burke disconnected from the meeting at 8:33am.

5 Continuing Discussion About Stranded Passengers

Liz reported that June 1st is a target date to get all the pieces into place including an organizational chart. She has spoken to Police Officer Brendon Coakley who manages the Town's Emergency Operations Center. The biggest concern is getting a space to use overnight. The Nantucket Inn is interested. The VFW hall is another possibility, but there needs to be someone to be on site overnight. Peter Morrison suggested using Cape Air's plan for plane crashes to use as a framework. A budget needs to be developed.

5 Director's Report

Janet reported that the Nantucket Cultural District's new website and should go live around Memorial Day. Janet then reported that she is starting her transition to her new role as a Strategic Planning Advisor to the Town and working on a cabinet retreat to discuss HR issues. Town Administration just released a video about the state of the Town of Nantucket and a new bicycle safety video is being developed. Janet then noted that there is a bird flu going around and that people should avoid picking up dead birds especially on the beaches. The outgoing Director noted that her successor has not been officially announced. Interviews have taken place and an offer has been made. The committee thanked Janet for her service.

6 Visitor Services Coordinator Report

David reviewed the statistics for May. He is still unable to get the download information for the weekly restaurant list and other files because of a recent change in online download gathering platforms thru the Town's website. David will have some info at the next meeting. David then reported on the current office hours and returning staff. He plans to have the office open 7 days a week starting Memorial Day Weekend.

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