



MEETING POSTING

TOWN OF NANTUCKET

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 18-25

All meeting **notices and agenda** must be filed and time stamped with the Town Clerk's Office and posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays)

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NANTUCKET TOWN CLERK
Posting Number:T 028

Committee/Board/s	TOWN COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE
Day, Date, and Time	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, at 3:00PM until 4:30PM
Location / Address	MEETING TRAILER AT 131 PLEASANT STREET (Room B) AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM
Signature of Chair or Authorized Person	Joe Grause

WARNING: IF THERE IS NO QUORUM OF MEMBERS PRESENT, OR IF MEETING POSTING IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OML STATUTE, NO MEETING MAY BE HELD!

AGENDA

Please list below the topics the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82162381880?pwd=3GotkbrasNaauarfDdVepZdbSCRH45.1>

Meeting ID: 821 6238 1880

Passcode: 348008

- I. Call to Order
- II. Acceptance of Agenda
- III. The Town Council Study Committee Meeting is being recorded.
- IV. Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2023
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Discussion of Project Plan (in general)
- VII. Project Plan Item 2 - What Problem are we trying to solve?
- VIII. Do we need an outside Facilitator?
- IX. Discussion Regarding Agenda for Next Meeting
- X. Adjournment

Town Council Study Committee
December 20, 2023

1. The organizational meeting of the Town Council Study Committee was held in Meeting Trailer "A" on Wednesday, December 20, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Attendance was in person and available on Zoom.
2. Attending in person were Acting Chair Tom Dixon (Select Board – ex officio); elected members Joe Grause, Caroline Baltzer, Curtis Barnes, Beau Barber, Kelly Steffen, Rachel Mandle, Jeff Carlson; and Jeremy Bloomer (alternate for Jill Vieth – Fin Comm – non voting). Attending via Zoom -- Donna Martino (ACNTV representative – non voting), Paula Suan – (ACNTV alternate – non voting), Hillary Rayport – guest.
3. Election of Officers. Joe Grause was elected Chair; Jeff Carlson elected as Vice Chair by unanimous consent.
4. It was agreed that the Committee should plan to meet every Wednesday every two weeks from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. The next meetings are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, and Wednesday, January 24 in Trailer A.
5. Free ranging discussion focused on two major areas: why consider change from the current form of Town government (Annual Town Meeting), and what alternate form of government would best serve the future needs of Nantucket?

It was noted that there are currently four basic forms of government organization in Massachusetts:

- Annual Town Meeting
- Representative Town Meeting
- Town Council/Manager
- Council/Mayor

The first three forms are available to Nantucket. The Town does not qualify for a Mayor/Council form of government due to population size/limitations.

6. Recognizing the need for wide ranging information for Nantucket residents in considering a change in the form of local government, it was emphasized that significant outreach efforts need to be made to all in the Nantucket community so that they can make well informed decisions if/when the question is brought to future Town Meeting.
7. With this in mind, it was agreed that it would be helpful to seek independent consultation from available resources – including the Mass. Municipal Assn., and the Collins Center at the University of Massachusetts. Jeff Carlson will contact the Collins Center to request their support assistance. Joe Grause will reach out to Michael Dutton, Town Manager of Bridgewater, as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
Curtis Barnes

DRAFT
Town of Nantucket
Town Council Study Committee

Project Outline
January 4, 2023

Committee Purpose:

The Committee was established by the Select Board in compliance with Article 81 of the FY2023 Annual Town Meeting with the purpose of studying the establishment of a Town Council form of government for Nantucket with the following conditions.

1. The Town Council shall serve as the legislative body for the Town and County of Nantucket.
2. The Town Council shall employ a Town Manager to manage and implement policies and procedures approved by the Council.
3. The special committee shall consider any structural or administrative details of the Town Council, including but not limited to
 - a. The number of members of the Town Council.
 - b. How the Town Council might represent the voters of Nantucket.
 - c. The qualifications necessary to hold a seat on the Town Council.
 - d. The internal organization of the Town Council.
 - e. Compensation of Council Members; and
 - f. Any other characteristics of the structure and processes of the proposed Town Council as may be recommended.

Goal:

The special committee shall complete its work and submit an Article for either an Annual or Special Town Meeting which, if passed, may enable the transition to a Town Council structure. The timing of the submission is dependent on the execution of all necessary steps, including appointing the committee, public hearing and writing of the article. *(All taken from Article 81 of ATM FY2023.)*

Project Plan

Meeting #	Topics/Agenda/Goals
	1. Committee Education/Research a. Understanding Nantucket's current government structure; how does Nantucket operate? Roles/responsibilities of various parts of Town Government. b. What are the forms of government in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts? How do they differ? Pros and Cons? Statistics/characteristics of Towns using the four forms? c. What leads Towns to change form of government? d. Experience of other Town who have changed to a Town Council? What led to change? Hurdles?
	2. What problem are we attempting to solve? a. "Unpack" the issue. What are the shortcomings of Town Meeting? What are the benefits of a change? b. What will opponents of change claim about Town Meeting? c. What voters might be supportive of a change? Who might oppose it?
	3. Examine some recent conversions to Town Council a. Review the Town Charters? b. Functional similarities and differences? c. Process used? (Charter Commission or Special Legislation?) d. Is Town Council the appropriate solution here? What about Representative Town Meeting?
	4. Compose a new Town Council Charter for Nantucket a. Is there a recent conversion whose Charter we can copy/use? b. Does the Committee draft or should we use outside law firm? c. Discuss specific structural issues: i. Number of Councilors? ii. Terms? iii. Qualifications to hold a Council position? iv. How will Councilors represent the voters of the Town? v. Non-resident taxpayers? vi. Compensation? vii. Relationship to Town Manager? viii. Will Role and Responsibilities of Town Manager change? Other Town Employees? ix. Relationship of Town Council to other elected persons/entities? Planning Board, Land Bank, NP&EDC? Others? x. Other issues?

	5. Public Hearings a. Are they necessary? (Check with Town Counsel) b. How many? c. Gather input from voters. Survey?
	6. Compose Article for _____ Town Meeting
	7. PR/Marketing Plan to communicate benefits/reasons for change to Town Council a. Ongoing communication to voters b. Community outreach – visit with various influence groups. - c.
	8. Other Steps??