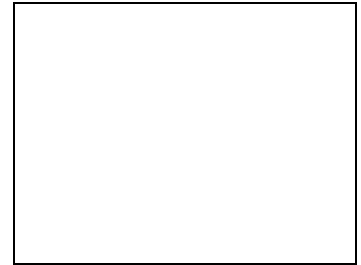




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: 8:04am

MEETING DATE: March 14 Time Meeting Adjourned: 8:50am

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Mary Malavase, Chair, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Director of Culture and Tourism, David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator, Sarah Bois, Peter Morrison, Niles Parker and Matt Peel.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Liz Holland, Vice Chair

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	VOTES / ROLL CALL
1 Welcome VSAC Members	David welcomed the members of the committee to the meeting. He then reviewed the meeting rules. David then asked for a roll call of all members present. The VS Coordinator also reviewed the ground rules and script for remotely conducted open meetings via Zoom.	
2 Conversation with NRTA Administrator Gary Roberts	Nantucket Regional Transit Authority Administrator Gary Roberts reported that he has only been here for 6 weeks. For the last 35 years, Gary has been working at the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority as Director of Maintenance. He has very familiar with the island as he has visited many times over the last 9 years before taking his current position. Gary then noted that he has a grant and is looking into replacing the noisy diesel-powered bus fleet with electric ones. This will take several years in which about 2-3 buses will be replaced each year depending on the route. A demo vehicle will be brought to the island this summer so people can get an idea of what will be happening. The new NRTA Administrator also discussed the need to hire drivers, test and train them to get their Commercial Drivers Licenses. Gary will also see if there are certain routes that don't require CDLs so that there will be enough drivers for the season. Matt asked if there would be any changes to the schedules and Gary noted that he would like to align them more to the ferry arrival times and make more adjustments including start and stop times in the near future. Administrator Roberts added that he is looking to expand off season routes and hours as well as add locations where long term/ seasonal passes can be sold. Currently they are only sold at the NRTA office. If it is possible he would like to add the Greenhound bus station and possibly the Visitor Services office as other places to sell long term/ seasonal passes. The committee offered to help with providing the NRTA with island information and any other assistance. Gary Roberts disconnected at 8:34am	
3 Director's Report	Shantaw reported that it is grant writing season. She is working on a Destination Development Capital grant through the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism to do repairs on the Visitor Services building. The Director noted that there is an open grant that closes on March 31 that is intended to help organizations fund cultural programming this summer and fall. She then reported that she is hosting a grant reception on June 1 at 5:30pm with the Nantucket Cultural Council and Nantucket Cultural District at the White Heron Theatre. Shantaw also briefly discussed creating a partnership with the NRTA and the Greenhound bus	

station staff. Mary suggested having a meet and greet with the NRTA drivers which will help strengthen the relationship between Culture and Tourism and NRTA departments.

4 Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2023

The minutes from February were approved.

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5 Visitor Services Coordinator Report

David reviewed the statistics for February. He noted that calls asking about summer info are increasing. The 2023 Travel and Lodging brochure has arrived and is available to take as well as download from the website. Staff will be returning in early April and the office will be expanding hours by Daffodil Weekend

6 In-Person meetings at Pleasant Street Trailer Update

David clarified that the meeting space at the Town's Pleasant Street trailer by the old fire station is an available meeting site should the committee chose to meet in person. He added that the Remote Meeting via Zoom option is due to expire on March 31. At present there is a bill being considered at the Massachusetts State House that would extend the option to meet via Zoom thru 2025. The bill passed the House but has not been passed by the Senate. Town Administration will let committees know shortly what the status is on how to meet in the next few weeks.

7 April Meeting Day/ Date Change

David reported that Airport General Manager, Noah Karberg cannot meet with the committee on Tuesday, April 11 due to a scheduling conflict every second Tuesday of the month. He can meet either Wednesday, April 12 or Thursday, April 13. The committee agreed to meet with Noah on Wednesday, April 12.

Signature _____