

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS

Minutes of Public meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, January 4, 2025 (via Zoom)

1. Attending members: Kathy Baird, Lou Bassano, Gary Beller, Gene Briskman, Michael Cody, Patti Deuster, Lynn Filipski, Bill Gardner, Don Green, Peter Halle, Peter Kahn, Donna Martino, Steve Perelman, Scott Ulm. Member absent: Pam Suan.
2. Chair Peter Halle convened the meeting at 10:00 am and read the Virtual Meeting Script confirming a quorum was present.
3. The Agenda for today's meeting was moved for approval, seconded and passed unanimously.
4. Approval of the minutes from the November 23, 2024 meeting was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.
5. Peter H. opened the meeting by welcoming and introducing guest speaker Rob Ranney (Nantucket Representative to Steamship Authority (SSA) Board).
6. Rob provided a brief history of the SSA, how it operates, his role on the board, challenges and responses to them (staffing issues, crew retirements, website and reservation system shortcomings, an aging fleet of vessels, proposed speed restrictions, need to dredge Hyannis harbor and upcoming projects. Rob answered member and public questions about the operational statistics shared with attendees, SSA borrowing capacity for capital projects, unions, plans to elevate the Nantucket terminal to address coastal resiliency challenges, opportunities to assist right whale research through the installation of warning and monitoring technology on SSA vessels, operational partnership with the Hyline, and benefits and downsides to mainland towns resulting from SSA operations.
7. Steve requested quick feedback from the 21 members of the public who attended this meeting regarding how they had heard about it, noting the success of the outreach being a combination of interest in the speaker/topic as well as general NVT interest.
8. Donna provided an update on the Town Council Study Committee (TCSC) activities which included a presentation to the Select Board by Chair Joe Grause regarding the 'sense of the meeting' proposal to be voted on at Annual Town meeting (ATM) and during the town elections that follow, finalization of the draft charter and article targeted for a planned Special Town Meeting (STM) in the fall. TCSC held outreach Zoom calls in late 2024 and plans more as well as informational handouts for ATM. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 8 from 3-5PM.
9. Peter provided an update on the town's Master Plan Update progress including the possibility of ACNVT members to participate in facilitated 'Kitchen Conversations' using materials, a defined process and 5 general questions provided by the town. Concerns were noted about holding a formal meeting of the ACNVT for this purpose and how neighborhood civic association area plans would be incorporated. Kathy volunteered to circulate the 'conversation' materials to members in case any would like to participate in one of these sessions to be held before the end of January.
10. Peter noted there was little new information regarding the proposed citizen warrant articles for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting to hold further discussion at this time. Kathy noted that Town Counsel has provided feedback on them and the links to read their content and the town counsel comments can be found [here](#).
11. Public comment by NVT Kraig Siracuse led to a discussion and motion that passed unanimously for Peter H. to draft a letter to the Select Board outlining ACNVT

support for their position and to reconsider or delay the proposed large vessel speed restrictions.

12. The next ACNVT meeting will be held via Zoom at 10am Saturday February 15, 2025 at 10AM with Finance Director, Brian Turbitt and Libby Gibson as our invited guest speakers on the topic of capital expenditures and the 2026 town budget. In order to prepare for the meeting it was suggested that members review the [2026 draft budget presentation](#) given to the Select Board on December 11.
13. Motion to adjourn was seconded and passed unanimously at 12:14pm.

The following link represents the recording of this meeting located on the Town of Nantucket YouTube website. [ACNVT Meeting recording for January 4 2025](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Baird, Secretary