

Nantucket Historical Commission

October 18, 2024 Meeting

10AM

131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket MA and via Zoom

Commissioners Present: George Butterworth, Clement Durkes, Angus MacLeod, Rita Carr, (in person); Sarah McLane (online).

Staff Present: Holly Backus, Preservation Planner

Public: Anne Dougherty, Randy Ringer (in person); Brandon Kunkel, Hillary Rayport, Mike Burns, Matt Freemont Smith (online)

Commissioners absent: Diane Coombs, Abby De Molina

Agenda

- **Meeting called to order at 10 AM** George, Clement, Angus, and Rita are in person, Sarah via Zoom. Preservation Planner Holly Backus is in person with members of the public Anne Dougherty and Randy Ringer, and Brandon Kunkel and Hillary Rayport online.
- **Public Comment**
 - Hillary Rayport commented on the application before the Historic District Commission to demolish 10 New Whale Street, a brick industrial building near the waterfront. States it would be a loss for the community and has potential for reuse despite its dilapidated condition. Asked if the NHC would attend the HDC meeting.
 - Holly Backus will be at the HDC meeting as staff liaison; this topic will be on the agenda for the November NHC meeting.
 - Sarah notes this is a great opportunity for a historic tax credit project
- **Tom Nevers Trailhead Conceptual Design Review**
 - Anne Dougherty presented the project and explained ReMain Nantucket's involvement in the design and planning of the trailhead where Tom Nevers and Milestone Road meet
 - Brandon Kunkel, Weston & Sampson explained the design: was for a natural and clean design with native plants and a simple structure for cyclists and pedestrians to take a break, highlight the natural beauty with interpretive signage
 - Materials include crushed shell, Belgian block edging, natural cedar seating and shade structure.
 - Design stresses native plants with flowering trees and wildflowers for color, decorative stones for visual interest
 - Clement questioned a maintenance fund, mentions that wildflowers need maintenance. Is in favor of the design.
 - Anne notes that Kelly Omand, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, will consult on native species
 - Mike Burns, Transportation Program Manager, says maintenance responsibilities have yet to be determined

- Randy Ringer notes the Tom Nevers Civic Association could contribute to maintenance funds
 - Matt Freemont Smith, Sconset Civic Association, appreciates the plan and asks about adding a water fountain
 - Anne notes a water fountain is not feasible within the scope of this plan, access is too distant.
 - Angus appreciates the design but would like something that fits in more with what's existing along Milestone Rd currently, is concerned about flower maintenance, thinks this looks very different from what is along the road now; would like a different color green for the bike rack and bike repair station
 - Holly stresses the importance of a natural feeling
 - Sarah questions the Belgian block stone edging of the planting beds and suggests something more minimal that would disappear
 - Clement suggests a bollard style bike rack that could match what's in town
 - Hillary mentions the NHC's previous guidance for bike racks in town vs out of town and a past stated preference for slanted granite curbs
 - Discussion of hiding the area a little from the road, with native shrubs like bayberry
 - Rita notes the current design feels somewhat formal for this suggestion of Milestone Rd but favors the general goals
 - Mike notes the goal is for the project to be completed by 2027 and is a separate project, but contingent upon, the extension of the Tom Nevers bike path
 - The Commission asks for the design to be brought back before moving on to regulatory boards, noting that it is not a requirement.
- **International Training Course on Climate Action for Sustainable Built Heritage and Management**
 - ICCROM is hosting a monthlong program in materials conservation with the Nantucket Historical Association; Holly will speak on a panel
- **Ongoing Survey Work**
 - Kickoff event for the Preservation Institute Nantucket's West Monomoy survey project postponed to November 16 due to hurricanes.
 - FY2023 Survey Request for Qualifications
 - Contract has been extended for 1 year by the Massachusetts Historical Commission; RFQ will be amended
 - The project was reduced from 140 surveys to 120, to be more competitive for respondents
 - Rita noted that digitizing all of Nantucket's deeds would make it more feasible for off island consultants to complete surveys; Rita will reach out to the Registrar to look into feasibility.
 - Updating the National Historic Landmark datasheet could help make future surveys less labor intensive
- **Certified Local Government MOU**
 - Concerns over "special note" at the end of the document; question of if the second MOU is necessary, will wait to for a full board to discuss further

- **Commission Goals**
 - Continuing to look into expanding historic tax credits
 - Curbing and sidewalk materials are being restored after the sewer force main project on Centre and Lily Street; Holly is in frequent contact with the Sewer department.
- **Approval of Minutes: August 16 and September 20, 2024 meetings**
 - **Motion to Approve by Angus, Second by George**
 - **Angus, aye; Clement, aye; George, aye; Sarah, abstain; Rita, aye**
- **Other business**
 - Rita will prepare FY2024 report for review next meeting
- **Motion to adjourn at 11:34 AM made by Clement, second by Angus**
 - Clement, aye; Angus, aye; George, aye; Sarah, aye; Rita, aye.

Adopted October 21, 2025