

Nantucket Historical Commission

January 17, 2025 Meeting

10AM

131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket MA and via Zoom

Attendees:

George Butterworth (Commissioner)
Rita Carr (Commissioner)
Holly Backus (staff)
Vince Murphy – Town Sustainability Programs Manager
Leah Hill – Town Coastal Resilience Coordinator
Rachel Freeman – Director of the Land Bank
Mary Bergman – Nantucket Preservation Trust
Abby De Molina (Commissioner) – online
Sarah McLane (Commissioner) – online
Diane Coombs (Commissioner) – online
Angus MacLeod (Commissioner) – online
Clement Durkes (Commissioner) – online

Agenda

- Roll call at 10:02AM Commissioners George and Rita are present in person. Holly as staff is also present in person. Members of the public Vince Murphy (Town Sustainability), Leah Hill (Town Sustainability) and Rachel Freeman (LB) are also present in person. Commissioners Abby, Sarah, and Diane are online. Abby made a motion to move Francis Street to first on the agenda, George seconded it. Abby - aye, George – aye, Sarah – aye, Diane – aye, and Rita – aye. Please note Commissioner Angus joined online at 10:05AM.
- Francis Street Beach Improvement Project Leah Hill presented an overview of the project and noted there is a [workgroup](#) with representation from the SB, NP&EDC, Remain, Land Bank, town staff from sustainability, stormwater, administration, DPW, and consultants. Noted the importance of limiting beach erosion at the intersection of Washington and Francis Streets. Rachel presented two views – dune swoop vs beach overlook. She noted the Land Bank wants to retain kayak access. Vince noted there were two meetings with 125 attendees earlier in the week (1/13 and 1/15) and there was a slight preference for a boardwalk. Leah noted the [survey](#) is open until 1/21 8PM and both meetings are online. The feedback will be compiled and presented to the workgroup on Friday 1/14/25. Note: Commissioner Clement joined at 10:24AM. Commissioners and staff noted collaboration is important and want to see the design as it evolves. Too early to support one approach vs another.
- Public Comment None
- Staff Update Holly noted we have a new staff member who will be doing more administrative HDC work. NHA invited Jeffrey and Elizabeth Michael Chiarippa and Elizabeth Watson, Preservation Planner. 89 Easton Street was awarded in August 2024.
- Commission discussion: minimum maintenance of contributing structures (Town Code ch. 124-13) – 10 New Whale Street, 5 Candle Street Angus reviewed the HDC

discussion. There is a push to move toward 10 New Whale demolition because the engineer said it is past the point of rehabilitation but 5 Candle Street can meet the minimum standards. Angus notes he had spoken with Glenn who is restoring the candle factory. The Town wants an independent engineer to see if the building is truly able to be salvaged. Angus suggested reaching out to other parties that may have not only preservation and legal experience. Angus suggested speaking to Heritage Partners. Holly will reach out to them and Glenn as well – what can be done with the structure. Holly will speak to the CLGs for Fall River and New Bedford. Sarah mentioned there are qualified craftsmen on the island such as Colin Evans and this is an ideal tax credit project. Holly noted there needs to be permission from the owner to do anything on the property. Diane noted HDC used to require an independent inspector to go into buildings before they were demolished. Abby asked about the previous COA that expired but Holly pointed out it was 30 years ago and now has entered the period of significance. Mary Bergman spoke about importance the period of significance and of working people. She also gave some guidance on language in the act to protect the building in Appendix C.

- *Certified Local Government Memorandum of Understanding Still pending review by Town Counsel*
- *African Meeting House 200th Anniversary celebration Abby gave an overview of the event.*
- *New National Natural Landmark: Nantucket Barrier Beach and Wildlife Refuge Holly reviewed. Angus asked about special protections. Mary suggested partnering with NCF and Trustees.*
- *Commission Goals Abby reviewed.*
- *Approval of minutes – December 20, 2024 meeting Motion to approve by Angus, second by George. Angus – aye, George – aye, Clement – aye, Abby – aye, Diane – aye, Sara – aye, Rita – aye.*
- *Other Business*

Motion to adjourn by George at 11:22AM, seconded by Clement. George – aye, Clement – aye, Angus – aye, Abby – aye, Diane – aye, Sarah – aye, Rita – aye.