



Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission DRAFT Minutes
Hybrid - Meeting Trailer, Room A, 131 Pleasant Street and
Remote Participation via Zoom Webinar
August 5, 2024 @ 5:00PM

Commissioners: Chair Barry Rector, Vice-Chair Nat Lowell, John Kitchener, Abby De Molina, Michael Misurelli, Kristina Jelleme, Brook Mohr, Joseph Topham, Bert Johnson, and Dave Iverson

Staff: Leslie Snell, Director of Planning, Megan Trudel, Senior Planner, and Catherine Ancero, Administrative Specialist

NP & EDC DRAFT MINTUES 08-05-2024

I. Call to Order:

Chair Rector called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

II. Establishment of Quorum:

In Attendance:

Vote taken by Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Nat Lowell *Aye*

John Kitchener *Aye*

Abby De Molina *Aye*

Michael Misurelli *Aye*

Kristina Jelleme *Aye*

Brook Mohr *Aye*

Joseph Topham *Aye (remote participation)*

Bert Johnson *Aye (remote participation)*

Dave Iverson *Aye (remote participation)*

Barry Rector *Aye*

III. Approval of Agenda:

Motion/Vote: Mr. Kitchener made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was duly seconded by Mr. Lowell and the motion was carried unanimously.

Vote taken by Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Nat Lowell *Aye*

John Kitchener *Aye*

Abby De Molina *Aye*

Michael Misurelli *Aye*

Kristina Jelleme *Aye*

Brook Mohr *Aye*

Joseph Topham *Aye (remote participation)*

Dave Iverson *Aye (remote participation)*

Bert Johnson *Aye (remote participation)*

Barry Rector *Aye*

IV. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

V. Public Workshop to Discuss Changes to the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission's Enabling Legislation:

Discussion: Mr. Lowell mentioned past meetings where changes were proposed. There was a debate over the structure of the Commission. The Board debated whether members should be elected or appointed with some advocating for a mix of elected and appointed members. Chair Rector opened the floor to the public. Hillary Rayport proposed a Commission with five elected and six appointed members from various Boards like ConCom, Housing Authorities, Planning Board, Land Bank, and Historical Commission. There were concerns about the effectiveness of a large Commission and the commitment from its members. Seth Engelbourg suggested a balance approach between elected and appointed seats. Ms. De Molina suggested it should be more inclusive instead of assigning to a single organization. Mr. Topham argued that the Commissioners should focus on long-range planning and that Historic Preservation could be incorporated later. Kristine Jelleme pointed out the importance of compromise and suggesting that the group should prioritize finding a balance. Ms. Jelleme supports that the Historic Commission be included in place of other suggested groups like the Cultural Council or Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Jelleme stated that there would be some difficulty appointing the same people to multiple committees which can strain their time and commitment. Ms. Jelleme advocated for more at-large members, as this would bring in new people who are passionate and committed. Ms. Jelleme recognizes that those who truly believe in the organization will be the ones that are engaged and committed. Ms. Rayport agreed with Ms. Jelleme's points. Ms. De Molina stressed the importance of finding a balance appointing and electing Board members. Ms. De Molina questioned if they are looking for mix of elected and appointed members that have the necessary skills and diverse representation. There was concern that making the process too complex or requiring elections for all positions might discourage people to get involved because the people do not have the proper resources to run for office. Ms. De Molina stated that the goal is to make the Board as inclusive and accessible as possible, making it effective and not overly complicated. Mr. Iverson expressed the need for a balance between appointed and elected members, expressing concern about a lack of qualified candidates if relying solely on elections. Ms. Rayport raised the idea of allowing the Historical Commission to appoint members however received opposition from the Board. Chair Rector supported appointments instead of electing to make sure a broader candidate pool suggested utilizing staff expertise without expanding its membership. There was a debate about if the Historical Commission was being fairly represented and opinions were divided. There was a consensus towards giving the current structure a chance, however time constraints and scheduling conflicts due to the upcoming Special Town Meeting on September 17th.

Motion/Vote: Ms. Mohr made a motion to form a workgroup of three members from the Board.

Discussion: Seth Engelbourg expressed concerns whether a small workgroup is legal and transparent. Mr. Engelbourg stressed the importance to follow open meeting laws and make sure meetings are publicly accessible and reported. Ms. Mohr clarified that once two or more Board members are involved, meetings must comply with open meeting laws. The Board agreed that meetings should be televised and reported to maintain transparency and make sure that discussions remain open and accessible. There was no need to amend the motion for public participation. The Board agreed to proceed with the smaller workgroup of three individuals.

Vote taken by Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Nat Lowell *Aye*

John Kitchener *Aye*

Abby De Molina *Opposed*

Michael Misurelli *Opposed*

Kristina Jelleme *Aye*

Brook Mohr *Aye*

Joseph Topham *Aye (remote participation)*

Dave Iverson *technical issue (remote participation)*

Bert Johnson *Aye (remote participation)*

Barry Rector *Opposed*

The motion was carried 6-3 with Ms. De Molina, Mr. Misurelli and Chair Rector opposed to the motion.

VI. Adjournment:

Ms. De Molina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM. The motion was duly seconded by Ms. Jelleme and the motion was carried unanimously.

Vote taken by Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Nat Lowell *Aye*

John Kitchener *Aye*

Abby De Molina *Aye*

Michael Misurelli *Aye*

Kristina Jelleme *Aye*

Brook Mohr *Aye*

Joseph Topham *Aye (remote participation)*

Bert Johnson *Aye (remote participation)*

Barry Rector *Aye*

Submitted By: Catherine Ancero