

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of February 5, 2025. The hybrid meeting took place in person at the Public Safety Facility Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road; and, via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Brooke Mohr, Thomas Dixon, Matt Fee and Dawn Holdgate. Dr. Malcolm MacNab participated remotely.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mohr called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM following the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SELECT BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as posted. Chair Mohr noted that Dr. MacNab was participating remotely, and all votes will be taken by roll call vote.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Town Manager Gregg Tivnan reviewed the announcements:

1. The Select Board Meeting is Being Audio and Video Recorded.

2. Committee Vacancies – Round 4: Council for Human Services; Council on Aging; Cultural Council; Town of Nantucket Scholarship Committee; Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate – Deadline is February 7, 2025 at 12:00 PM.

3. Master Plan Visioning Process Kick-Off Event

Join Charles Marohn, Founder and President of Strong Towns, to Launch the Nantucket Master Plan Visioning Process on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM at The Nantucket Inn; Plenary Session and Reception to Follow. Free Event Open to All, but Space is Limited. RSVP by emailing laurel@barrettplanningllc.com.

4. Master Plan Update: Help Shape Nantucket's Future!

Host a Kitchen Conversation—A Small-Group Discussion You Can Facilitate from Your Kitchen, Office, Coffee Shop, or Anywhere. Share Ideas with Friends and Neighbors about Nantucket's Strengths and Challenges to Help Update the Master Plan. To Learn More, Email Megan Trudel at mtrudel@nantucket-ma.gov. Deadline extended to February 21, 2025.

Mr. Tivnan introduced Transportation Program Manager Mike Burns who read the following announcement regarding the Pleasant Street One-Way Pilot Program between William Street and Five Corners:

“As early as this Friday, February 7, 2025, the Nantucket Department of Public Works (DPW) anticipates reopening only the northbound lane of Pleasant Street between Williams Street and Atlantic Avenue/Five Corners to vehicle traffic. Signage and barricades will be placed in the southbound lane between these intersections to designate that section for ‘pedestrians and bicyclists only’ as part of the one-way pilot recommended by the Nantucket Historical Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission (NP&EDC), and approved by the Select Board.

This pilot period will last two months, during which time access will be maintained to all driveways and intersecting roadways. Public outreach will include collecting public comment and survey

responses through the ZenCity website. Traffic counts (including vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle counts) will be collected, analyzed, and presented to the Select Board by early April. If this piloting is deemed successful with sufficient positive responses from those who walk or bike in the area, minimal disruption and minimal anticipated disruption to traffic flow, and general acceptance by the community, staff will recommend the Select Board extend the piloting period and public outreach effort to a date to be determined.”

Mr. Tivnan introduced Health Director Roque Miramontes who gave the following update on the avian flu:

“To date, H5N1 avian influenza remains primarily an animal virus with the highest risk posed to birds, particularly wild waterfowl such as geese, ducks, gulls, shorebirds, and swans. Raptors and scavengers that consume infected birds are also highly susceptible, along with domestic poultry, which remains at significant risk. While the current risk to public health is low and there has been no human-to-human transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) anywhere in the United States, individuals should avoid contact with sick or dead birds, and pet owners are advised to keep dogs leashed and cats indoors to prevent exposure. State agencies, including the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), and MassWildlife, urge the public to report sick or dead birds through an online reporting form and to follow proper precautions when handling animals. The Nantucket Health Department recently posted guidance recommended by the state on the Town website. Additionally, Massachusetts has continued monitoring efforts, including routine testing of dairy farms, which have not detected any infections in the state’s cattle.

Recent testing on Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard has been part of a broader avian influenza surveillance effort. While large die-offs of birds on Cape Cod are now generally considered suspect for HPAI, the existence of dead wild birds on Nantucket, particularly in the winter months, is not an unusual event. Earlier this week or last, researchers from Tufts University in collaboration with Coskata-Coatue wildlife refuge and others, collected approximately 100 dead birds for testing of HPAI. Of the first batch of 76 samples collected onsite at the refuge, Warren’s Landing, and Cathcart beach and analyzed, only three birds—a Great Black-backed Gull, a Herring Gull, and a Common Eider—tested presumptively positive for H5N1-HPAI, with confirmation testing still pending. There are approximately 20 additional specimens set to be tested. Samples were processed at a state laboratory using RNA extraction and PCR testing for influenza A and H5 HPAI. These tests are screening tests as confirmatory testing needs to be coordinated with the US Dept of Agriculture. The preliminary results suggest it seems unlikely that HPAI is the main driver of what is being observed in seabirds on Nantucket.

As monitoring continues, MassWildlife and other state partners remain engaged in ongoing situational assessments, including bi-weekly regional meetings on avian influenza trends. The Health Department will continue to emphasize prevention strategies, particularly for backyard poultry owners, pet owners, and those handling wildlife. Testing and surveillance efforts will occur in collaboration with the state and other partners, and further updates will be provided as confirmation testing progresses for recent samples collected from Nantucket and surrounding areas.”

5. Select Board Announcements/Comments. Mr. Fee asked about vehicle inspections and if it is possible for the state to send mobile inspectors to the island.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ON PUBLIC COMMENT QUESTIONS FROM PRIOR SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

There were no questions asked at the January 29th Select Board meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Veronica Bonnet re-asked questions from the January 22, 2025 meeting, noting she feels the answers posted online did not answer her questions. She asked when the Town was notified that Vineyard Wind submitted an addendum revision to its construction and operation plan and requested that related correspondence be made publicly available or else the Select Board should admit they “don’t have a seat at the table.”

Mary Chalke asked the Board to not consider a settlement with Vineyard Wind until the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has answered questions posed by the public. She asked questions about the value of the island with a “dead ocean”; water quality testing; findings from a marine life assessment; why pollution/debris is still showing up on Nantucket beaches; what percentage of the blade remains on the seabed; how microplastics will be cleaned up; and what the deadline is to remove the 66 defective blades that have been installed. Mr. Fee asked if the yellow debris Ms. Chalke brought to the meeting was something new washing up.

Amy DiSibio asked if there is a new date to meet with BSEE; if the Town was actively seeking a new meeting date with BSEE; which table does the Select Board have a seat at; and is the Town willing to file a lawsuit to document the many complaints, formally.

George Ellis expressed concerns over Vineyard Wind removing the 66 defective blades and the timeline of doing so. He encouraged the Board to “strongly” appeal to Vineyard Wind, BSEE, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior.

Robert Bates expressed concerns about property owners not clearing public sidewalks in front of their properties from snow and ice and asked who would be liable if someone was hurt as a result.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, WARRANTS AND PENDING CONTRACTS

Mr. Fee moved approval of items VII. 1 – 4; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; by roll call vote: Chair Mohr – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; so voted.

1. Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

2. Approval of Payroll Warrants for February 2, 2025.

3. Approval of Treasury Warrants for February 5, 2025.

4. Approval of Pending Contracts for February 5, 2025 - as Set Forth on the Spreadsheet Identified as Exhibit 1, Which Exhibit is Incorporated Herein by Reference.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

1. Gift Acceptances: Natural Resources Department; Human Services. Chair Mohr read the list of donors, amounts of gifts and purposes. Ms. Holdgate moved to accept all gifts for their designated purpose, with thanks to the donors; seconded by Mr. Dixon; by roll call vote: Chair Mohr – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; so voted.

IX. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL/COMMITTEE REQUESTS/REPORTS

1. Nantucket Moorings: Request for Increase of Rental Mooring Fees. Operations Administrator Erika Mooney reviewed the request, noting that the last rate increase approved by the Select Board was in 2020. Nantucket Moorings owner Tim Reinemo reviewed his request for a dynamic pricing model, similar to the Nantucket Boat Basin, hotels and other businesses in the hospitality industry. Mr. Fee asked if Nantucket Moorings is in compliance with the conditions of their contract with the Town. Ms. Mooney answered affirmatively. Mr. Fee and Ms. Holdgate asked questions on the proposed pricing model, which Mr. Reinemo answered. Ms. Holdgate moved to approve the increase of rental mooring fees for Nantucket Moorings as presented; seconded by Mr. Fee; by roll call vote: Chair Mohr – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; so voted.

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Report on Nantucket's PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Presentation at New England Water Environment Association Conference Held January 26 - 29, 2025. Mr. Tivnan; Chuck Larson, Manager of Strategic Projects; Andrew Shapero, Environmental Contamination Administrator; and David Gray, Sewer Director, updated the Board on their attendance at the New England Water Environment Association conference held last week and the presentation they gave on PFAS.

XI. SELECT BOARD REPORTS/COMMENT

1. Discussion Regarding Follow-up to Article 36 of 2024 Annual Town Meeting (African Meeting House) "Investigation". Chair Mohr explained that the Board attempted a prior procurement process that was found unsatisfactory to the Article 36 proponent, and she is now proposing a more open and transparent process. Ms. Mohr proposed a workgroup be created by the Select Board, with one representative from the citizen warrant group; one representative named by the Museum of African American History; one representative from the Select Board, which Dr. MacNab has offered to fill; and two citizen appointees. Chair Mohr introduced Dr. Nicolle Trent, the president and CEO of the Museum of African American History/Boston and Nantucket. Dr. Trent said she fully endorses the process proposed and she feels this is a step toward accountability, even though criminal compensation may never come to fruition. Article 36 supporter, Barbara Burgo, said she feels the process being proposed sounds much better, adding she is hoping to find out what "really happened" at the African Meeting House when it was vandalized. She said she wants accountability and transparency. Ms. Burgo asked the Board to hold a moment of silence for Chris Barros on the 6th anniversary of his passing, which was granted. Article 36 supporter, Jim Barros, spoke in favor of moving the process along. Chair Mohr noted that because the workgroup will be established by the Select Board, it will need to follow all Open Meeting Laws for agendas, minutes and open, public meetings which will be recorded. Ms. Burgo said that is acceptable. Ms. Holdgate said the Board would ask Ms. Burgo for her opinion on the applicants. Dr. Trent clarified that while she acknowledges that many people are seeking a criminal and/or punitive path, she is not interested and instead wants a transformative path. The Board discussed the proposed appointment timeline for the two citizen representatives. Mr. Fee moved to establish the workgroup as outlined by Ms. Mohr and to use the appointment timeline proposed; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; by roll call vote: Chair Mohr – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; so voted.

2. Committee Reports. There were no committee reports.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fee moved adjournment at 6:47 PM; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; by roll call vote: Chair Mohr – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes, Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; so voted.

Approved the 12th day of February, 2025.

**SELECT BOARD
FEBRUARY 5, 2025 – 5:30 PM
PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- III. 2. Committee Appointment Timeline - Round 4; Committee Vacancy Notice
- III. 3. Master Plan Visioning Process Kick-Off flyer
- III. Pleasant Street On-Way Pilot Program flyer
- VII. 1. Draft minutes of 1/29/2025
- VII. 4. Pending Contracts spreadsheet
- VIII. 1. Gift summaries & recommended motion; Natural Resources gift; Saltmarsh Senior Center gift
- IX. 1. AIS re: Nantucket Moorings increase to rental mooring fees; Request from Nantucket Moorings; Proposed Fee Increase; Nantucket Moorings License Agreement
- XI. 1. Email from Brooke Mohr re: African Meeting House next steps; Draft timeline for workgroup appointments; Article 36 of 2024 Annual Town Meeting