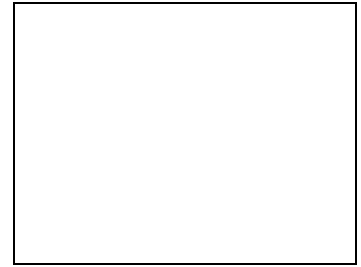




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee

Time Meeting called to Order: 8:01am

MEETING DATE: October 8th, 2024

Time Meeting Adjourned: 8:40am

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Mary Malavase, Chair, Garison Beale, Liz Holland and Peter Morrison

MEMBERS ABSENT: Niles Parker, Matt Peel, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT via ZOOM: Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Director of Culture & Tourism and David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator

ANTICIPATED SPEAKERS: David Gray, Sr, Director Nantucket Sewer Department

AGENDA ITEM

DISCUSSION

VOTES / ROLL CALL

1 Welcome VSAC Members David S. welcomed the committee members to the meeting. He reviewed the remote meeting info and the new Agenda Protocol/Public Comment rule. The Visitor Services Coordinator then asked for a roll call of all members, guest speakers and staff present.

2 Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2024 The September minutes were voted 3-0 in favor; however, Mary abstained. There was no majority approval, and the minutes will be voted on again at the next meeting.

3 Conversation with Sewer Director David Gray, Sr. Mary welcomed Director of the Nantucket Sewer Department, David Gray. David G. began by reporting on the upcoming sewer/water main projects resuming for the off-season. Pine Street from Hiller Lane to Silver Street will be closed to install a water main. Sewer force main work returns along the Liberty/Gardner Street corridor. The sewer force main work from Step Lane to Lily Street has been finished and the sidewalk restoration along Centre Street and on Step Lane in front of the Veranda House will be starting. It was noted that new furniture will be delivered to the rebuilt Veranda House so work will begin on Centre Street and then move to Step Lane after the delivery to avoid any disruptions to the business. The Surfside Road sewer project will wrap up between Sparks Avenue and South Shore Road, section by section (Sparks Avenue to First Way, First Way to Bartlett Road, Bartlett Road to Miacomet Ave and then on to South Shore Road). The rumble strips in front of the schools will be taken out and will be replaced by curbing per the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Initiative. The Sewer Director added that they found an undocumented fire cistern system on Pine Street which they filled in. He later added that they also found old storm systems by Lily Pond and Capaum Pond. David G. then noted that the department has been working on a 3-year maintenance management program to view sewer mains with closed circuit tv and see if there are any problems. The sewer system is 100 years old, and the water system is about 125 years old. The department now manages the island's storm water flow and has been able to eliminate an extra 235,000 gallons a day from going through the Sea Street pump station. They Sewer Department recently hired Charles Johnson to

be the Storm Water Manager. In response to a question about erosion, David G. reported that there is a concern for beach erosion by the sewer beds on the south shore especially with the recent Southwester/Southeaster winter storms. David G. noted that recently, Hurricane Kirk was 700-800 miles offshore and there were 10 foot swells close enough to the sewer bed nearest to the water. This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the University of Michigan have been onsite with electronics and radar systems that scan winds as high as 35,000 feet providing updates to the town. The Sewer Department also hosts tours. They recently had several groups from the Saltmarsh Senior Center and kids from the summer camps. Peter suggested that N Magazine should write a story on the department and include a lot of pictures as well as have the Nantucket Historical Association document what is going on with the projects that include the old cisterns, etc.

David Gray disconnected at 8:33am.

4 Director's Report Shantaw began by reporting that after a few delays the office is getting a new Placer A.I. contract. The C&T Director then noted that the town is conducting interviews for the Cultural Affairs and Special Events Coordinator position that is being transferred back to the department from the police. There were 30 applicants. Many were highly qualified and there are 6 interviews in the first round. The Cultural Council has a new grant cycle that ends October 16th. First quarter tax numbers are down and Shantaw will reach out to the finance department to get a better understanding of what this means for the island going forward.

5 Visitor Services Coordinator Report David S. reviewed the Visitor Services statistics for September. The main office is still open 7 days per week. The Airport desk has closed, but David is restocking it every few days. The Straight Wharf Kiosk will close October 15. He was asked about any feedback from Restaurant Week and noted that several people came in to ask about it. He added that yesterday's closing event with food trucks outside of the Faregrounds Restaurant had to adjust due to heavy rainfall. 2 vendors cancelled, one set up outside the front door of the restaurant which opened, and the other vendor set up in the bar area.

Signature _____