

Town and County of Nantucket
ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE

Posted Meeting of
August 19, 2024, at 4:00 pm

Held live in 131 Pleasant Street and by Zoom Videoconferencing @
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87669110695?pwd=mIL8nMalDNshfRZ9D5DiaDEjls0ZP5.1>

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, and Public Comments.

A. Call to Order.

Chair Lee Saperstein called the meeting to order at 4:01pm; in attendance, confirmed by roll-call vote, were committee members Rick Atherton, Gordon Auchterlonie (new member), Nelson “Snookie” Eldridge, Ed Gillum, Nat Lowell, Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein, and Phil Smith; there was a quorum at all times. The meeting was recorded and the video link for watching the meeting live is included above. It will be the same for the balance of this committee year. Lee Saperstein asked each member to give a capsule biography for the record and for the new member.

Guests: Robert Bystrowski, and Tracy MacDonald (by Zoom), Town of Nantucket Real Estate Specialists; Mike Burns, Manager Transportation Programs; Karel Greenberg, ‘Sconset Civic Association; and Steven Teal.

Absent: Rob Ranney.

The meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the Town’s You Tube site (on Town’s main web page at “Watch Meetings Live”, select “Playlists” then look for “Roads and Right of Way”):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKzzYkanj9E&list=PL49sKqpy7VAi_AAzhvnU4I5DTnhiVDj1&index=58&t=3s.

B. Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda.

Lee Saperstein reported on a gift of five upright monuments marked “Public Way” from Neil Paterson Inc. He has written to say thanks and now asks Allen Reinhard to report at a future meeting on the disposition of these stones.

Karel Greenberg and her colleague, Lynn Filipski, spoke strongly about the burden of overcrowding on the ‘Sconset Bluff Footpath, and asked the Committee for its support in finding a workable means to control crowding. Lee Saperstein agreed that the ‘Sconset Bluff Footpath Subcommittee’s report of 2010 should be restored to the Committee’s website. In that this

agenda segment is Public Comment, he suggested that next month's agenda will have an item dedicated to the Footpath. Rick Atherton and others said that this committee should collect ideas from the 'Sconset associations and endorse workable ones.

C. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2025.

Tracy MacDonald said that the Artificial Intelligence program, Otter, has provided summaries of the June and July meetings but that they have not yet been edited into a minutes' format. She hopes to have them ready for distribution in a week or so.

2. Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan: Phil Smith.

Phil Smith's e-mail of July 25, 2025, was sent to existing members of the committee and introduced the topic of the Harbors Action Plan, which is to be a comprehensive plan for Nantucket and Madaket Harbors. The plan includes objectives and recommendations in various categories, such as water quality, public access, and coastal resilience. He asked the committee to review the plan and provide feedback on assigned roles and responsibilities, particularly for this committee. Lee Saperstein and Rick Atherton discussed the importance of the plan and the need for a structured approach to reviewing and commenting on it.

3. Encroachment Policy and Enforcement: Tracy MacDonald

Tracy MacDonald provided an update on the Town's existing encroachment policy, noting that it has evolved into a larger scope project. She and Bob Bystrowski are working on a major presentation to the Select Board that she will share with the committee once approved by the Board. The committee discussed the challenges of identifying and addressing encroachments, such as stakes, rocks, and overgrown hedges. Ed Gillum suggested involving traffic safety and other relevant departments in addressing encroachments. The committee considered the need for a structured approach to reviewing and addressing encroachments, including potential policy changes.

4. Future of the Committee and its Mission: Lee Saperstein

Lee Saperstein proposed revisiting the committee's mission and vision to include transportation planning. The committee discussed the potential for a Citizens Advisory Committee for transportation planning, with Mike Burns as a possible chair. The need for public input and collaboration with other town departments was emphasized. The committee considered the importance of addressing issues like sidewalks, curbing, and traffic safety in this new mission. Lee Saperstein committed to the development of a revised mission statement, along with a proposed membership roster, for a revised Roads and Right of Way Committee. He said that he will coordinate with Mike Burns and other Town officials and will bring it back in time for the next meeting.

Phil Smith suggested that the revised committee take ownership of the Chapter 91 process, which involves licensing structures in waterways. The committee discussed the challenges faced by the Town and the committee of managing Chapter 91 licenses and the need for a comprehensive approach. The importance of long-term resilience planning and addressing issues such as the impact of erosion on public access should be featured. The committee considered the need for a structured approach to reviewing and addressing Chapter 91 issues. The committee agreed to review the Harbor Plan Update and provide feedback in the next meeting. It will include also a discussion on the state of barrier beaches and other relevant topics.

Nat Lowell emphasized the need for a modern yet old-school approach to transportation planning, highlighting the importance of addressing specific issues like road layouts and curbing. He stressed the necessity of local involvement in managing transportation projects, criticizing the current system where an off-island contractor handles the job.

To close out this segment, Lee Saperstein noted that we still need to select a Secretary and hoped that something can be done at the next meeting.

5. Adjournment.

Adjournment came at 5:31 pm by motion of Allen Reinhard, seconded by Snookie Eldridge, and approved unanimously.

Next meeting: 4:00 pm, September 16, 2024.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary *pro tem*, October 27, 2025.