

AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE INVESTIGATION PROCUREMENT WORKGROUP

APRIL 17, 2025, 10:00 AM

131 PLEASANT STREET

AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

African Meeting House Investigation Procurement Workgroup Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of April 17, 2025. The hybrid meeting took place in person at 131 Pleasant Street; and, via remote participation using Zoom. Members present were Dr. Malcolm MacNab, Dr. Noelle Trent, Anthony “Rocky” Fox, Clifford Williams and Luke Thornewill.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair MacNab called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

II. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The group introduced themselves, with members sharing their connections to the island and their roles in various committees. The conversation ended with a moment of silence and prayer.

III. Establish Meeting Schedule

The committee agrees to meet virtually at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, and then Mondays at 5:30 PM for subsequent meetings. The meetings will be held at the Meeting Trailer which has video capabilities. They aim to make a recommendation for an investigator quickly while doing it correctly.

The committee discusses the format of their meetings, agreeing on a hybrid approach with in-person and Zoom options.

IV. Establish Preferred Qualifications for Consulting Firm

A motion is made to consider the early draft of the 2024 Town Meeting Article 36, but it's clarified that the Select Board has charged this committee with selecting an investigator as outlined in the approved positive motion for Article 36 of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. They agree to move forward with their current task as directed by the Select Board.

Maureen Coleman discussed the process of selecting an independent firm or person for an investigation including qualification criteria, writing a scope of work and conducting an approved Request for Proposals (RFP). The committee defined “independent” as no ties to the Nantucket community or the Nantucket Police Department for transparency and clarity. In addition to the provided investigators listed on the draft scope, the possibility of other companies submitting their applications (bids) was also mentioned.

Finance Director Brian Turbitt will write up a proper procurement offer and will attend the next meeting to discuss the process.

V. Discussion of Establishment of Criteria for Investigation

The committee emphasized the need for independence, professionalism and experience of the investigation process. The committee will check references and conduct interviews to assess the candidate's qualification. The committee agreed on the importance of hiring someone with experience in law enforcement investigation practices and protocols. They also discussed the need for a professional investigator with a proven track record, not someone conducting their first investigation.

The committee discusses the scope of work for an independent investigation into the March 11, 2018 incident. The committee reviewed a comprehensive list of seven points drafted by Nantucket Chief of Police, Jody Kasper, which covers the necessary areas of inquiry. The committee added two additional points of consideration, a public presentation of findings at a Select Board meeting and the flexibility to expand the investigation if needed. Brian Turbitt will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the RFP process.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thornewill moved adjournment at 10:45 AM; seconded by Mr. Williams; all in favor, so voted.

Approved April 28, 2025

List of documents used at the meeting:

- IV. DRAFT Scope of Services for Independent Review of Investigation
- V. Town Clerk's Certified Copy of Article 36, May 7, 2024 Annual Town Meeting