



MEETING POSTING

TOWN OF NANTUCKET

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 18-25

All meeting **notices and agenda** must be filed and time stamped with the Town Clerk's Office and posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)

RECEIVED

2025 DEC 10 PM 01:43
NANTUCKET TOWN CLERK
Posting Number:T 1002

Committee/Board/s | Roads and Right of Way Committee

Day, Date, and Time | Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Location / Address | □ Room A, The Trailer, 131 Pleasant Street; or by Zoom:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87669110695?pwd=mIL8nMalDNshfRZ9D5DiaDEjIs0ZP5.1>

Meeting ID: 876 6911 0695
Passcode: 487956

□

Signature of Chair or Authorized Person | Lee W. Saperstein

WARNING: IF THERE IS NO QUORUM OF MEMBERS PRESENT, OR IF MEETING POSTING IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OML STATUTE, NO MEETING MAY BE HELD!

AGENDA

Please list below the topics the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting

Expected Attendance: Members: Rick Atherton, Gordon Auchterlonie, Ed Gillum, Nelson (Snookie) Eldridge, Nat Lowell, Rob Ranney, Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein, and Phil Smith; *ex officio*: Mike Burns, Drew Patnode, Bob Bystrowski, and Tracy MacDonald.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call; this meeting is being audio and video recorded: Lee Saperstein.
2. Public and Commissioners' Comments on Items not on the Agenda.
Conflict of Interest Training.
3. Approval of Minutes: Lee Saperstein.
4. Status of Committee Reorganization: Lee Saperstein.
Select Board approval.
5. Transportation Issues: Mike Burns.
Some e-bikes are controlled by throttles and are more like mo-peds:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/30/briefing/the-dangers-of-e-bikes.html>.
Status of Nantucket regulations.
6. Real Estate Issues: Robert Bystrowski

Stone Alley.

Encroachment: will there be a need for regulatory change?

7. DPW Issues. Andrew Patnode.

8. Proposal for 'Sconset Bluff, see attachment: Rick Atherton.

9. Other Old and New Business: Committee Members.

10. Adjournment.

Background on the Sconset Bluff Walk

The Sconset Bluff Walk traces its origins to several commonly used footpaths established by Native Americans and early colonial residents. A 1775 document in the Nantucket Registry of Deeds describes a public way that ran along the coastal bluff from the South Shore, past Tom Nevers Head, and all the way to Siasconset. This route was to be maintained for public use in perpetuity, even in the face of coastal erosion. That original public way no longer exists.

Historian Edouard A. Stackpole noted that a continuous footpath once extended from the village of Siasconset to Quidnet. In 1843, the United States government effectively divided that path with the construction of Sankaty Head Lighthouse. The segment from the center of Siasconset to Sankaty Head survives today as a public way thanks to an 1892 deed from developer William Flagg, covering his properties north of Ocean Park (the area of the Wade Cottages) to Rosaly and north of Ann's Lane. The adjacent area of Aurora Heights, between Rosaly and Ann's Lane, was owned separately. The Proprietors voted to accept the footpath on September 3, 1892, and Flagg formally conveyed the land to them on September 21, 1892. On December 1, 1929, the Land Court legally established the footpath as property of the Town of Nantucket.

As noted in the 2010 Bluff Report, increasing erosion and the steadily growing number of users presented ongoing challenges. The task ahead now is to balance the preservation of public access and thoughtful maintenance of the path with the privacy and quiet enjoyment of abutting property owners as a key goal.

We propose a Management Plan that will help realize the 2010 report's original goal: "a lower public profile for the path, and a more positive, symbiotic relationship between abutters and visitors to the path." Although signage outlining rules for the path was created, its impact on the intense summer crowds has been limited. The original proposal also lacked implementation of the "more regular and dependable enforcement and maintenance" needed to support these goals.

Proposed Management Plan for the Sconset Bluff

1. Seasonal Hours of Use

Restrict public access during July and August to **8:30 AM–5:30 PM**. Limiting use during peak season is essential for preserving the physical condition of the Path, which suffers extensive erosion from foot traffic, runners, bicycles, and strollers.

2. Install Wooden Gates/Turnstiles

Install wooden “gates” or turnstiles at the south and north entrances, as recommended by the 2010 Subcommittee and approved by the Fire Department. These are **not locked gates**, but physical reminders designed to deter bicycles and strollers and reinforce that the Path is a **single-width footpath**.

3. Hire a Sconset Bluff Ranger

Employ seasonal “Bluff Rangers” who wear identifiable vests and name tags. Their role is to educate visitors and reinforce the stated rules of the Path.

- **Enforcement** of violations remains the responsibility of the Nantucket Police Department.
- **Funding** for initial years may be shared by Sconset residents, the Siasconset Civic Association, and the Sconset Trust.
- **Estimated cost:** Approximately **\$50/hour** for a **4-hour daily shift** (10 AM–2 PM), seven days a week, during peak season—adjustable based on observed traffic patterns.
- The Town may encourage the formation of a **501(c)(3)** organization to support long-term staffing.

4. Protect the Physical Path / Erosion Monitoring

Work with the DPW to identify areas of erosion or pedestrian risk and consider installing **split-rail fencing** where appropriate.

Sections that become too narrow for safe passage should be temporarily closed or remediated through stabilization efforts.

5. Revise Town Website & Publicity

Remove promotional references to the Path from digital, print, and social media outreach.

With **over 1,000 visitors per day in high season**, the Path is already beyond sustainable capacity. Public messaging should focus solely on the education of the **rules for safe and respectful use**, not on attracting additional traffic.

6. Protect Front Street from Unnecessary Traffic

Install clear signage at the base of Broadway directing visitors to the correct Bluff Walk entrance, reducing congestion on Front Street.

Consider implementing a **permit system for commercial photography**. Protecting the **privacy, peace, and quiet** of adjacent private property owners must remain a top priority.

Job Description

Sconset Bluff Walk Ranger

Position Summary

The Sconset Bluff Walk Ranger will serve as an on-the-ground ambassador for one of Nantucket's most treasured public resources. The Bluff Walk is beloved by residents and visitors alike, yet it exists alongside private homes and fragile coastline. With ongoing erosion and increased foot traffic, the challenge is to preserve public access while ensuring respect for the privacy and quiet enjoyment of abutting property owners.

The Ranger's role is central to balancing these needs through education, presence, and gentle stewardship.

Key Responsibilities

- Educate visitors about the history of the Bluff Walk, including the long-standing public right of access and the erosion that continues to shape the coastline.
- Promote respectful behavior along the Footpath to protect neighboring homeowners' privacy and maintain a peaceful environment.
- Provide guidance on proper use of the path, including:
 - Parking strollers and bicycles in designated areas in the village core
 - Staying on the marked path
 - Walking single file and understanding why this is required
 - Keeping voices low and mobile phones on silent
 - Proper disposal of garbage
- Monitor activity on the path and offer friendly reminders when needed.
- Serve as a visible, welcoming presence for visitors.
- Check in and out daily at the Sconset Trust office.
- Communicate observations, issues, or concerns to the Sconset Trust and the Sconset Civic Association.

Qualifications

- Ideal for a college student or any adult with an interest in **history, preservation, environmental studies, community engagement, or visitor management/traffic control**.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Comfortable interacting with the public in a calm and courteous manner.
- Ability to learn and convey key historical and environmental information about the Bluff Walk.
- Must be 18 years of age or older

Compensation & Schedule

- \$50. Per hour will be offered for the months of **July and August**
- **Hours** to be determined based on staffing needs and availability.

Reporting Structure

This position reports jointly to the **Sconset Trust** and the **Sconset Civic Association**.

Turnstile Recommended in 2010 Bluff Walk Subcommittee Report

