

Nantucket Historical Commission

December 19, 2025 Meeting

10AM

131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket MA and via Zoom

Attendees:

Rita Carr (Commissioner)
George Butterworth (Commissioner)
Betsy Tyler (Commissioner)
Barbara Halstead (Commissioner)
Sarah McLane (Commissioner)
Holly Backus (staff – Preservation Planner)
Gail Walker (President of Nantucket Lights)
Mary Bergman – Nantucket Preservation Trust
Abby De Molina (Commissioner) – online
Angus MacLeod (Commissioner) – online
Jane Slade (SpecLines) – online
James Brigagliano (Dark Sky approval programs – online)
Lauren Sinatra – (staff – Town Energy Coordinator)

Agenda

- Roll call at 10 AM *Commissioners Rita, George, Barbara, Sarah, and Betsy are in person. Commissioners Abby and Angus are online. Staff Holly is also in person. Staff Lauren is online. Jane Slade from SpecLines and James Brigagliano from the Dark Sky program are online as well.*
- Public comment *None*
- Staff update *The Coast Guard fuel replacement project to relocate piping from underground to above ground at Brant Point station. They will now put the piping underground, which is great. The NHC offered support to the USCG Brant Point station through Rita. The Wauwinet Bike Path project will be an opportunity for us to get some Wauwinet surveys, which is terrific as we will not get additional funding and this covers an area not previously surveyed. The MHC confirmed no adverse effects with the Lovers Lane project.*
- Nantucket Lights – *Gail Walker reviewed a presentation of the pilot of the Downtown Dark Sky Friendly streetlamp fixture. She showed photos of the Grosse Point fixture with the hurricane lamp added. Jane Slade from SpecLines wanted to highlight comments. They were delighted the hurricane lamps captured the up light. Pilot fixture dimmed to 15 watts (80 lumens for watt) – 1200 lumens (above the 1000 lumens limit). Gail wanted to confirm it was actually 73 lumens per watt, so it is below the threshold ($73 \times 12 = 876$). Jane confirmed it is ($73 \times 15 = 1,095$) so it is still over the limit. Holly asked about the denial and especially how close we are. Question about whether we can retrofit the fixtures onto our poles (we can). Abby and Angus left at 11:00AM Abby rejoined at 11:20. Augusta Dark Sky – installed on the Vineyard. Multiple commissioners showed their support for the hurricane lamp look. Wondering if it is too much sacrifice to try to achieve this designation. Motion by George to endorse the streetlight with the hurricane lamp*

added, second by Barbara. George – aye, Barbara – aye, Betsy – nay, Sarah – aye, Abby – aye, and Rita – nay.

- *Distressed properties list – potential demolition by neglect citations. Suggestion is to bring an existing list and see where gaps are for our next meeting. Holly says some have been brought up HDC but may not have a comprehensive list.*
- *Historic resource surveys update*
 - *Wind Fund RFQ response – PaleoWest, LLC/Heritage was awarded. We had to whittle list down to 30 Form Bs, as required by MHC. Holly identified parcels that are one form but have multiple structures. Removed LORAN dorms and Old North cemeteries as are widely documented.*
 - *Massachusetts Historical Commission FY23 funding Request for Qualifications Not 100% yet – Holly recently received comments from the state and needs to work with Procurement. Down to 110 – more monetary value per form.*
- *FY 2026 Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey & Planning Grant Pre-Approval Application Accepted Great news! Step in helping us further our goals.*
- *Civil War Monument repair Stone has been returned to the DPW, and the insurance claim has been closed – Holly will confirm with Finance.*
- *Upcoming training opportunities Not many for this month.*
- *Commission Goals Abby Reviewed goals with Commission. Confirmed upcoming Section 106 reviews for Lovers Lane, Wauwinet Bike Path, and Tom Nevers Bike path. Abby mentioned she would like someone from the Commission to present on the NHC findings at an upcoming NP&EDC Meeting.*
- *Other Business Sarah would like Chris Carey – general contractor and works on deconstruction – to present to the Commission. Tax write-off for the owner and keeps item out of the landfill. He spoke with the Builders Association as well.*

Motion to adjourn by Betsy at 12:00PM, seconded by Sarah. Unanimous approval. Barbara – aye, George – aye, Betsy – aye, Abby – aye, Sarah – aye, Rita – aye.