

Nantucket Historical Commission

April 18, 2025 Meeting

10AM

131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket MA and via Zoom

Attendees:

Rita Carr (Commissioner)
Angus MacLeod (Commissioner)
Clement Durkes (Commissioner) – online
Abby De Molina (Commissioner) – online
Sarah McLane (Commissioner) – online
Holly Backus (staff)
Mary Bergman – Nantucket Preservation Trust
Gail Walker – Nantucket Lights

Absent:

George Butterworth (Commissioner)

Agenda

- Roll call at 10:03AM *Commissioner and Chair Rita is present in person. Holly as staff is also present in person. Commissioners Clement, Abby, Sarah are online. Members of the public Mary Bergman (NPT) and Gail Walker (Nantucket Lights) are also present in person. Commissioner Angus joined in person at 10:06AM.*
- Public Comment *None*
- Staff Update *Holly brought us up to date and reminded us to provide her our certifications if we attend the NAPC trainings.*
- Downtown street lighting fixtures – compliance with 2023 Annual Town Meeting Article 76 *Gail Walker presented her presentation on outdoor lighting. Questions for us as a commission:*
 1. *How do we feel about no globes on Main Street? Clement agrees we should remove the globes. Abby just wanted to confirm there is enough lighting for safety. Gail confirmed the lighting is still pointing downwards just reduces the light going upward. With LED lighting they can be adjusted light by light. Angus brought up that we should address the bigger culprits which is not downtown. Mary brought up it all depends on which historical time period we would address and thinks we need much bigger buy-in from the community. She feels more public outreach is needed since survey only had 53 responses. Gail wants to continue surveying during the summer. Question about the lighting enforcement officer but he also deals with zoning issues.*
 2. *How do we feel about the proposed compromise if DarkSky International agrees to make an exception for the fixtures on Main Street? Colonial look most appropriate.*
 3. *How do we feel about the need for internal elements to be added to the Victorian-style dark sky fixture to make it look more “historical”?*

If needed, which option presented by Spring City is preferred? Holly will see if we can get the QR code from Florencia. Spring City will try to get on the May agenda.

- *Walter Beinecke memorial plaque replacement Glenn Boornazian. The idea is to only replace the bronze plaque with the new one – new art and background. Same text. Coincides with the 300th anniversary for the Congregational Church. Historic marker. Holly will let Glenn know we support.*
- *Historic resource surveys*
 - *Update on University of Florida West Monomoy neighborhood surveys Have documented 330 parcels and created a database – 161 have been identified that need a more comprehensive form base and need to work with community on intensive properties.*
- *Sewer Force Main project – Sidewalk and Curbing replacement Had heard about an issue with the grade but a solution has been achieved that will preserve the hedges that had their roots exposed.*
- *Annual Town Meeting articles of Preservation Concern*
 - *Article 38 – Zoning Map Change, ROH to CDT, North Water Street – goal is to align buildings and their current use with the contiguous zoning. Concern about changing the ground cover.*
 - *Article 65 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Preexisting Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots Makes sense to all involved. Motion by Abby to support, second by Sarah. Abby – aye, Sarah – aye, Clement – aye, Angus – aye, and Rita – aye. Holly noted the subdivision control act happened in 1955 and zoning did not go into place until 1972. Holly explained why this is a special permit.*
 - *Article 71 – General Bylaw Amendment, Streets and Sidewalks Allows installation of LED lights or message signs – bylaw bans the use of these signs. There was a pilot on Milestone coming into Sconset. Angus thinks it is out of character and was temporary and would not like to see it proliferate. Clement noted people are looking at it. Gail also noted she has seen people slow way down and it is effective and thinks they want them to be near the school. SB has a comment in the warrant “the neighborhood’s character and general aesthetic will be taken into account when placing signs.” Holly thinks we should request Mike let us know. Questions from Rita on timing of how long they last. Angus suggested a camera as a less intrusive option. Clement added she would like to see benefit before it becomes permit and proliferates.*
 - *Article 101 – Signs, Satellite Dishes, Rooflines Proposal Both written by Stephen Welch and recommendation of take no action. But no information from him.*
 - *Article 102 – Ground Cover Allowance Proposal*
- *Commission Goals Abby was not present to discuss – will review next meeting.*
- *Approval of minutes – March 21, 2025 meeting Not included in the packet and will be approved next month at the May 16 meeting.*
- *Other Business Part 2 of the NAPC window webinar. Another training in May with the NPS – technical preservation services. Based on Preservation Brief 51 – published last June. Webinar on May 2 or May 21. Rita will send info if people want to sign up. Holly reminded people to tell her about their trainings so they can be included for the CLG.*

Motion to adjourn by Angus at 11:49AM, seconded by Clement. Angus – aye, Clement – aye, Sarah – aye, Rita – aye.