SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2026. The hybrid meeting took place in person at the Public Safety Facility Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road; and, via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Dawn E. Hill, Robert DeCosta, Matt Fee, Brooke Mohr and Jill Vieth.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM following the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed Mr. DeCosta and Ms. Vieth as newly elected Select Board members, who were sworn in this morning.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Hill opened nominations for Chair. Ms. Vieth nominated Ms. Hill as Chair; seconded by Mr. DeCosta; all in favor to elect Ms. Hill as Chair, so voted.

Chair Hill opened nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Vieth nominated Ms. Mohr as Vice Chair; seconded by Mr. DeCosta; all in favor to elect Ms. Mohr as Vice Chair, so voted.

III. SELECT BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Town Manager Rick Sears and Operations Administrator Erika Mooney reviewed the announcements as noted:

1. The Select Board Meeting is Being Audio and Video Recorded.

2. Memorial Day Ceremony to be Held Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 1:00 PM at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

3. Announce Applications Received (per Select Board Committee Appointment Policy) for 2026 Annual Appointments: Agricultural Commission, Airport Commission, Board of Health, Cannabis Advisory Committee, Capital Program Committee, Cemetery Commission, Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Human Services Contract Review Committee, Council for Human Services, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Finance Committee, Historic District Commission Associate, Nantucket Affordable Housing Trust, Nantucket Historical Commission, Planning Board Alternate, Real Estate Assessment Committee, Scholarship Committee, Sign Advisory Council, Tree Advisory Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate. Appointments to be Made June 10, 2026. Ms. Mooney read the list of applicants as included in the Board's agenda packet.

4. The Community Claims Fund Launched on Monday, January 26, 2026 to Accept Claims. This Fund was Created as Part of the Blade Failure Settlement with GEV. Verus, LLC, the Administrator of the Fund, has Created a Dedicated Website with More Information and Instructions for How to File a Claim: www.NantucketBladeSettlement.com. Claims Must be Filed No Later than June 26, 2026. For Questions, Please Contact the Verus Support Team at NantucketBladeSettlement@Verusllc.com or 508-305-7225.

5. Select Board Announcements/Comments. Ms. Mohr noted an issue with house moves and the utility companies, and said she would the like Board to facilitate a conversation with the utilities to address the matter.

Chair Hill said the Town had very successful votes at yesterday's election, but noted a discussion needs to be had about the LORAN barracks.

V. UPDATE ON PUBLIC COMMENT QUESTIONS FROM PRIOR SELECT BOARD MEETINGS (see https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/3788/2026-Public-Comment-Questions-Responses) Chair Hill reviewed the responses to public comments from the May 13, 2026 meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
Curtis Barnes said that the federal government is reducing PFAS limitations and as a Nantucket Water Commissioner he will be reviewing this closely.

VII. NEW BUSINESS
There was no New Business.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, WARRANTS AND PENDING CONTRACTS

1. Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2026 at 5:30 PM; May 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM. Mr. Fee moved approval of the minutes as presented; seconded by Ms. Mohr; so voted with Chair Hill, Ms. Mohr and Mr. Fee voting in favor. Mr. DeCosta and Ms. Vieth abstained.

2. Approval of Treasury Warrants for May 20, 2026. Ms. Mohr moved approval of the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

IX. APPOINTMENT
1. Joint Meeting with Planning Board to Introduce Candidates for One (1) Planning Board Vacancy Pursuant to Select Board Committee Appointment Policy; Joint Select Board – Planning Board Vote on Appointment. The Planning Board called to order at 5:46 PM. Operations Administrator Erika Mooney explained that the process for filling a vacancy on the Planning Board is statutory pursuant to MGL Ch. 41, s. 81A, and the appointment runs to the next annual town election in 2027, at which time such office shall be filled by election, for the remainder of the unexpired term which is 2030. Ms. Mooney said there are three applicants: Liza Hatton, Clay Evans and Campbell Sutton. She said that each member of the Planning Board and Select Board will send their vote to her, either by paper ballot if they are physically present at the meeting, or by email if they are remote, and she will read each vote aloud – who made the vote and for whom – and ask the Select Board and Planning Board members to confirm their vote. Ms. Hatton, Mr. Evans and Ms. Sutton each spoke on their applications. Votes were submitted, read by Ms. Mooney and confirmed by each member as follows:

Select Board:
Chair Hill – Ms. Hatton
Mr. DeCosta – Ms. Hatton
Mr. Fee – Ms. Sutton
Ms. Mohr – Ms. Hatton
Ms. Vieth – Ms. Hatton

Planning Board:
Chair David Iverson – Ms. Hatton
Brian Borgeson - Ms. Hatton

Nat Lowell – Ms. Hatton
Mr. Topham – Ms. Hatton

So voted to appoint Ms. Hatton, who will fill the vacancy until the 2027 Annual Town Election. Ms. Hatton, Mr. Evans and Ms. Sutton were thanked for their applications. The Planning Board adjourned its meeting at 5:55 PM.

X. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL/COMMITTEE REQUESTS/REPORTS

1. National Grid: Island Ready: A Nantucket Electricity Initiative, Planning for Nantucket's Future Supply Presentation. Julia Kaplan of National Grid reviewed the presentation as contained in the Select Board's agenda packet. William Ciocca, Danielle Aretz, Robert Reis and Steve Holdgate of National Grid were also present. Mary Longacre asked about "non wire" solutions, such as solar, and whether there are any constraints on those. Ms. Kaplan explained that NGrid is currently "considering" these types of solutions and said there are constraints on the use of those power sources. Ms. Aretz explained the parameters of the engineering necessary to explore the removal or reduction of the constraints. Mr. Fee asked about the payment for the undersea cables in place today. Ms. Kaplan said the first one has been paid off, the second is still being paid off. Mr. Fee noted the undersea cables do provide much improved reliability. Ms. Vieth asked about the capacity of new undersea cables. Ms. Kaplan explained that the capacity will be greater than it was when the original cables were installed; and, enough for future projected usage.

Ms. Mohr asked if NGrid can identify the reasons for Nantucket's electricity use that is so much greater than anywhere else in the state. Ms. Kaplan said it seems to be attributable to new buildings and increased population. Some discussion followed. Mr. DeCosta commented that some of the numbers are staggering and inquired as to where the electricity is going to come from, noting that renewable sources are not always less expensive. He expressed concern about state electrification initiatives. Discussion followed about peak load numbers from last summer. Burton Balkind asked about backup power sources and functionality. Ms. Kaplan responded. Energy Coordinator Lauren Sinatra spoke on the collaboration the Town has had with NGrid on non-wire initiatives and ways in which to reduce usage at peak times. She noted advocacy she has participated in regarding concerns about the State electrification initiatives referenced by Mr. DeCosta. She noted two upcoming community events at which SmartMeters, Mass Save, the Town's aggregation program and other topics will be addressed and questions from the community, answered.

2. Commission on Disability: Request for Accessible Parking Space to be Installed at 8 New Street. Commission on Disability Facilitator Brenda McDonough thanked the Board for allowing this matter to be on the agenda in an expedited manner without the normal review by the Traffic Safety Work Group; and, reviewed the request. Mr. DeCosta moved approval; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

3. Request for Waiver of Town Regulations Chapter 375, Traffic, § 375-16(A)(1), Parking Permits to Waive Fee of Third Parking Permit. Brook Meerbergen, owner of 17 Liberty Street, reviewed his request for a waiver of the fee for a third parking permit for his son. Some discussion followed as to precedent that might be set by an approval. Ms. Mohr moved to regretfully deny the request due to concerns about precedent; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Department of Culture and Tourism: 2026 Daffodil Festival Post Event Report. Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson introduced the agenda item and turned the report review to Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Director of Culture and Tourism. Ms. Bloise-Murphy reviewed the report in the Board's agenda packet and

reviewed issues observed over the weekend, including exceptionally large crowds, traffic congestion, parking and parade management challenges, open container activity, excessive trash accumulation and pedestrian safety concerns. Ciaran McCloskey, president of the Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Town for its support of the Daffodil Festival events and read a statement as to the Chamber's commitment to explore new strategies to manage the event. Ms. Vieth inquired about the number of attendees estimated to have been at the 2026 event, compared to prior years. Mr. McCloskey responded and noted how the estimates are generated. He further commented on the complexities of managing a very large event like this and the need to rely on outside vendors, which have been somewhat unreliable from time to time. Ms. Vieth suggested other data, such as emergency room visits, and police interactions, would be helpful. Ms. Bloise-Murphy elaborated on the data gathered from visitor tracking. She added that the crowd did come across as well-behaved. Ms. Vieth asked about the impact of the weather on the event; and, suggested that the Town overall needs more public restrooms. Chair Hill stated that while the Festival is a wonderful community event, it tends to fall during a school vacation week, which is problematic. Ms. Mohr concurred and expressed support for holding the Festival on a different weekend. Mr. Fee asked about the "VIP" parking arrangement. Mr. McCloskey explained it and said it was conceived from the need to generate more revenue from the event. Mr. Fee stated that he is "irked" by the program and expressed concern that it causes a negative divide between the community and visitors. He added that consideration should be given to making the event alcohol free, stating that alcohol mixed with driving to and from Sconset sends the wrong message. Chair Hill stated that consideration should also be given to keeping the antique car parade confined to Main Street. Ms. Vieth suggested that businesses be asked to provide data on how they do on Daffodil Weekend. Mr. DeCosta commented on the importance of the event on businesses. He said that the Town should supply additional trash cans and/or portable restrooms as needed, if need be. Ms. Vieth agreed. Discussion continued as to the event and possible ways to modify it. Amy Eldridge agreed with Mr. Fee as to the alcohol issue. Mary Longacre suggested that the use of plastic décor be curtailed. Campbell Sutton commented on keeping the Festival timing, as is.

<u>2. Preliminary 2026 Annual Town Meeting/Annual Town Election Follow-up.</u> Ms. Gibson reviewed follow-up actions from the Town Meeting and the Election. Discussion followed about issues with the overflow of Town Meeting attendees in the high school gym. Ms. Gibson noted that an internal de-brief is scheduled for next week and this is one of the items on the agenda. Ms. Vieth commented on the location of the speaker podium. Ms. Eldridge commented on the start time of Town Meeting, being too early. Chair Hill suggested a Board discussion as to whether or not to consider a special town meeting for the LORAN barracks project, which was approved at the Election but not by a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting. Mr. DeCosta said he would like to have a "hearty" discussion about a spring town meeting for financial articles and a fall town meeting for zoning. Some discussion followed. Ms. Mohr commended Town Administration and the Communications Office for their significant efforts on outreach and preparation and commented that she felt it was very helpful. Ms. Vieth and Chair Hill concurred.

<u>XII. SELECT BOARD REPORTS/COMMENT</u>

<u>1. Update on the Investigation of the Investigation of African Meeting House Vandalism.</u> Ms. Mohr noted that Dr. MacNab turned over the management of this task to her; and she is working to familiarize herself with it. Mr. DeCosta asked when the report will be complete. Ms. Mohr said she believes a draft is in progress and is unsure of when it will be final but said it is "imminent".

<u>2. Committee Reports.</u>

There were no committee reports.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DeCosta moved adjournment at 7:36 PM; seconded by Ms. Vieth; all in favor, so voted.

Approved the 27th day of May, 2026.

SELECT BOARD
MAY 20, 2026 – 5:30 PM
PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

List of documents used at the meeting:

IV. 3. Committee membership & applicant list; committee applications; 2026 Annual Committee Appointments Timeline
VIII. 1. Draft minutes of 5/13/2026; draft minutes of 5/14/2026 open session
IX. 1. Planning Board membership & applicant list; letters of interest from Liza Hatton. Clay Evans & Campbell Sutton; Procedure to fill a Planning Board vacancy (elected seat); MGL Ch. 41, s. 81A
X. 1. National Grid IslandReady presentation
X. 2. Email from Commission on Disability re: 8 New St
X. 3. Request for waiver of residential parking permit fee; Town Regulations Ch. 375-16(A)(1)
XI. 1. AIS re: Daffodil Festival post event report; post event report; photos; Daffodil Festival Debrief presentation