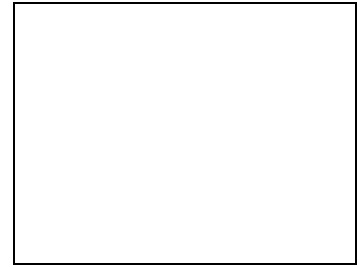




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee

Time Meeting called to Order: 8:05am

MEETING DATE: June 12, 2025

Time Meeting Adjourned: 8:55am

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Mary Malavase, Chair, Matt Peel, Vice Chair, Garison Beale, Liz Holland, Peter Morrison and Niles Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT via ZOOM: David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator, Deana Weatherly, Cultural Affairs and Special Events Coordinator and Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Director of Culture & Tourism.

GUESTS PRESENT: Warren Smith, Manager, Nantucket Memorial Airport

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	VOTES / ROLL CALL
1 Welcome VSAC Members		
David welcomed the committee members to the meeting. He recited the remote meeting script and the new Agenda Protocol/Public Comment rule.		
2 Approval of Minutes	The May 13 meeting minutes were unanimously approved 6-0.	
3 Conversation with Warren Smith, Manager, Nantucket Memorial Airport		
Mary welcomed new airport manager Warren Smith to the committee. She asked committee members to introduce themselves and note what their work experience is. Warren then began by noting that he was born and raised in Arizona. He started his aviation career at the Mesa, AZ airport and then worked at the Grand Canyon airport before coming to Nantucket late last fall. The airport manager added that he has been married 17 years and has 4 children.		
Warren reported that jetBlue just went up to 6 flights daily. He then noted that when people go on vacation the majority fly and the first and last impression of the destination is the airport. Chair Malavase asked if the VSAC/ C& T staff can help with his transition. She added that Liz has been working on a stranded passengers plan. Warren explained that the last planes of the day are now scheduled to leave earlier in order to avoid evening fog and other delays. Matt noted that he was born and raised in Seattle Washington and worked at Boeing in Everett, WA. He continued with asking for more year-round jet service as it is only Cape Air flying 11 seat Cessna 402 propeller planes in the off-season.		
Warren reported that there have been high demand weekends in summer when there is a surge in demand for items such as jet fuel. He added that the fuel farm may need to be upgraded in the next few years. Airport Manager Smith then noted that the private jet area will be expanded as many private jets are getting bigger/ larger wing spans. The new South ramp opened last August. Microphones have been installed to check and analyze noise abatement. Planes have to shut down after 15 minutes. Also, a contractor has been selected to build a jet blast wall at the southern end of the private plane parking area and work will start this fall or next		

spring. Warren added that there are FAA grants available for noise abatement, but Nantucket may not qualify for some as it is considered a seasonal airport. The airport is trying to have the FAA reconsider that status. He also reported that the pilot shortage has been affecting Cape Air.

The Airport Manager noted that he is meeting with airline station managers in July. Also, the control tower is currently understaffed by 2. There is a big push to get towers to be better staffed. Staff housing is being built off of Nobadeer Farm Road. It is 8 room dormitory style. It is almost done and the final inspections should take place next week. In addition, the airport owned house on Maddaquecham Valley Road will be repurposed to be year round housing.

Warren Smith signed off at 8:34am.

4 Director's Report Shantaw reviewed the April Placer A.I. statistics. There were 223,700 visits in may 70.000 visited more than 3 times. There were 27,400 visitors over Memorial Day Weekend,. Friday thru Monday are the busiest days of the week and it is the busiest between 9:00 and 11:00am. Most people are coming from Boston< Weston and Mashpee. Those flying from Boston originate at Terminal C which is where jetBlue and Cape Air leave from. Most day trippers are staying at the holiday inn in Hyannis.

Shantaw reported that passport activity in the office has slowed down. It has gone from about 100 a month to about 40. She added that she and Deana are helping with passport renewals, helping applicants assemble the package before they mail them off. Many are older people as it seems the Saltmarsh Senior Center are sending people to the office.

Juneteenth will take place from 11:00am-3:00pm at the African Meeting House on York Street. There will be music, arts and crafts, lawn games and tours of the Florence Higgenbotham House next door. There will be film showings of the Colored Cemetery inside the meeting house.

The department is busy planning for the July 4th holiday. Magic Mark the Magician will be a new addition to the Children's Beach activities that morning. The water contest will take place at 10:30 on main Street. It is earlier so that Main Street won't be closed for too long in the morning. Federal Street between Main and India streets will be closed for food trucks, music and the farmer's Market will be held on Cambridge Street. The fireworks will take place at 9:00pm on Jetties Beach. It's the same fireworks company which signed a new 3 year contract this year.

It was noted that the World Cup Soccer Tournament will be next year with Boston as one of the venues. This will bring a lot of people to Nantucket. Shantaw noted that Chamber Director Peter Burke is working on a marketing partnership for that time frame.

The seasonal staff is returning and so far the department has hired 2 more people and other people will be interviewed to help with either Children's Beach and/or Visitor Services. The Children's Beach activities will be increased to pre-Covid level.

Special Events and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Deana Weatherly will be managing the Children's Beach activities and staff. She is setting up a schedule which will be posted soon. New activities will include Magic Mark on Mondays and the Friday Tie-Dye Clinic will be back 3 times this summer. Tuesdays and Wednesdays will be quiet.

Deana then reported on the Special Permits. There have been 170 applications. 89 were permitted/ approved. There are 11 permits for filming. A total of 117 permits are complete as several do not need permits. She added that the trend seems to be people are applying later

5 Visitor Services Coordinator Report David reviewed the statistics for May. The numbers in general are steady. Staff is returning and the Straight Wharf Kiosk and Airport Info Desk will be opening later in June.

Signature _____