

Nantucket Historical Commission

May 15, 2026 Meeting

10AM

131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket MA and via Zoom

Attendees:

Betsy Tyler (Commissioner)
Barbara Halsted (Commissioner)
George Butterworth (Commissioner)
Rita Carr (Commissioner)
Angus MacLeod (Commissioner)
Sarah McLane (Commissioner)
Holly Backus (staff – Preservation Planner)

Agenda

- Roll call at 10 AM *Commissioners Rita, George, Barbara, Angus, Sarah and Betsy are in Person. Staff Holly is also in person.*
- Public comment *None*
- Staff update *Holly met with masons on site at the 5 Candle Street stabilization project and shared photos. Brick is being repointed and steel framing is being replaced.*
- Section 106 Review –11 Orange Street, Verizon Wireless Generator Replacement
 - Angus expressed a lack of concern over the proposed replacement, particularly given its lack of visibility.
 - Motion to write a letter finding no adverse effect by Angus, seconded Sarah. Angus – Aye, Sarah – Aye, Betsy – Aye, George – Aye, Barbara – Aye, Rita – Aye.
- Section 106 Review – Coast Guard Station Brant Point Range Lights
 - Elizabeth Kirkpatrick presented the project. Wooden range lights were constructed in 1908; the proposal is to demolish the existing range lights and replace them with 5x5' range towers, which are concrete and steel.
 - Angus expressed concern over the change in character; would rather see the existing repaired or rebuilt, all commissioners agreed. Rita asked if this alternative has been considered. Alex responded this has been considered but is more expensive. A monopole has also been discussed, with a façade that would resemble the existing wooden towers.
 - Holly asked what funding sources have been explored and stressed that the current range lights are contributing to the character and setting of the Nantucket National Historic Landmark; asked if alternative materials have been explored.
 - Coast guard has looked at composite materials
 - Sarah suggested a base with a replica tower that could be in steel, or the monopole with a skeleton
 - Elizabeth stated the Coast Guard recognizes this is an adverse effect and asks what mitigation the NHC would be open to; suggested a monument to the former towers or an online website for their history
 - Commissioners were not in favor of these mitigation strategies

- Asked if NHC would revisit this at a future meeting when response from the SHPO is received; commission agreed.
 - Motion to write a letter to MHC expressing concerns made by Angus, seconded by Sarah, unanimous approval.
- Ticcoma Green Building Naming
 - Kristie Farrentella and Dylan Metsch-Ampel from the Housing Office have requested suggestions for historically appropriate names for the four apartment buildings under construction for the Ticcoma Green project along Fairgrounds Road
 - The site formerly belonged to the Nantucket Electrical Company and was the site of the town Fairgrounds, which ceased operation in the 1920s
 - The commission appreciates the idea of names relating to the fairgrounds history but wants to research who owned the property before it became the fairgrounds.
 - Rita will research the site history and compile a list of potential names for the June NHC meeting
- Historic resource surveys update
 - PaleoWest, LLC / Chronical Heritage survey of Town-owned historic resources
 - Site work visit in late April; project is progressing
 - Massachusetts Historical Commission FY23 Brant Point and Cliffside surveys
 - Did site work in April; Holly walked the survey area with them.
 - One property in the Fish Lots was missed; Easton Architects will add this to their survey output
 - Phase 1 and 2 are wrapping up and will have a review meeting with MHC
- Civil War Monument
 - Rita was not able to reach Drew Patnode at the DPW
 - Holly has a contact in the finance office to speak to regarding the insurance review process to prevent a similar repair issue in the future
- Upcoming training opportunities
 - Making the Case: Economic Impact Studies for Historic Preservation was yesterday; Holly will circulate the recording to commissioners
 - Angus suggested pursuing an impact study about historic preservation on Nantucket
- Commission Goals
- Approval of Minutes: March 20, 2026
 - Motion to Approve made by Betsy, seconded by Barbara, unanimous approval
- Discussion of Alternate June Meeting Date
 - Due to the third Friday of June being Juneteenth, the NHC will instead meet on June 12, 2026.
- Other Business
 - Sarah asked about the status of Article 72 at Annual Town Meeting; the Attorney General has not yet indicated if a home rule petition must be filed to achieve the intent of the article to modify the quantum of vote required by the HDC to permit the demolition of a building 50 years old or older.
 - Holly suggested that the NHC help participate in the July 4/America 250 celebrations and has reached out to the Culture and Tourism department

Motion to adjourn made by Angus, seconded by George, unanimously approved.