NP&EDC

NANTUCKET PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

NP & EDC – January 6, 2025 @ 4:00PM APPROVED MINUTES

Special Meeting

Remote Participation via Webinar

LINK TO MEETING:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83745114187?pwd=CxFynizx2u6v4NruvraG0hvnC6dlYY.1

YOUTUBE LINK: **Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission -January 6, 2025**

Commissioners: Abby De Molina – Chair, Michael Misurelli – Vice Chair, Nat Lowell, Dave Iverson, Hillary Rayport, Liza Hatton, Bert Johnson, Brooke Mohr, John Kitchener, Kristina Jelleme

Staff: Leslie Snell, Director of Planning, Megan Trudel, Senior Planner, Rodlisha Dixon, Administrative Specialist

Facilitator: Julie Fitzgerald, Esq.

PLEASE LIST BELOW THE TOPICS THE CHAIR REASONABLY ANTICIPATES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

I. Call to Order:

Chair De Molina called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom and was audio and video recorded.

II. Establishment of Quorum

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION/VOTE:

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lowell and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. NP&EDC Enabling Legislation Update and Related Warrant Articles for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting

Overview:

The Commission held a facilitated discussion regarding proposed updates to the NP&EDC enabling legislation and the existence of both a Commission-sponsored proposal and a citizen-sponsored warrant article for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. Attorney Julie Fitzgerald facilitated the discussion and provided an overview of the statutory process required to amend the enabling legislation, including Town Meeting approval and subsequent action by the Massachusetts Legislature. Attorney Fitzgerald reviewed the background of the existing enabling legislation, the timing and procedural requirements associated with the 2026 Town Meeting warrant, and the shared objective of avoiding voter confusion by advancing a single, unified proposal if possible. A comparative chart outlining areas of consistency and difference between the two proposals was reviewed.

Commission Structure and Representation:

Discussion focused on Commission composition, including the proposed name change to Nantucket Regional Commission, which received broad support. Commissioners discussed the number of Planning Board representatives, at-large members, and sector-based representation. Differing perspectives were expressed regarding whether Planning Board representation should be limited to two or three members and the importance of maintaining institutional knowledge while increasing accessibility.

Appointed versus Elected Membership:

Substantial discussion addressed whether at-large members should be elected or appointed. Commissioners and members of the public expressed differing views regarding accountability, inclusivity, barriers to participation, and consistency with other regional planning agencies. No consensus was reached.

Sector Representation:

The Commission discussed proposed sector-based seats, including conservation, housing, historic preservation, social services, and business or tourism interests. Discussion included whether representatives should be required to be current members of specific boards or whether appointing authorities should have flexibility to designate qualified individuals from broader sectors. Participants emphasized the importance of coordination, reporting back to appointing bodies, and avoiding overburdening existing board members.

Term Limits:

Proposed term limits were discussed. Several Commissioners expressed concern that term limits were unnecessary given existing turnover and could reduce institutional continuity, while others noted that limited consecutive terms could support accountability and change. No consensus was reached.

Next Steps:

Chair De Molina noted that additional coordination with staff and Town Counsel would be required before further action. The Commission acknowledged that additional discussion would occur at a future meeting prior to any votes on warrant articles.

No votes were taken.

V. Adjournment

MOTION/VOTE:

Mr. Misurelli made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mohr and carried unanimously by roll call vote.