

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS**  
**Notes of meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, January 16, 2021 via Zoom**

1. Attending members: Kathy Baird, Lou Bassano, Bill Gardner, Gary Beller, Don Green, Peter Halle, Mary Russell and Bill Sherman; Rachel Day (Assistant Town Manager), Robert Eisenstein (OIH Interim Administrator), Michelle Munroe (OIH Assistant Administrator), Herb Taylor (Consultant/Facilitator) were our guest speakers from the Our Island Home (OIH) Feasibility Study Committee. Members absent: Peter Kahn, Sue Matloff. Other Guests in attendance included Jon and Jane Delano.
2. Chair Gary Beller opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m., offering a moment of silence in remembrance of our long time member and past president, Howard Blitman. Gary read the script for Zoom meetings provided by the town and declared a quorum present. The agenda for today's meeting and minutes for the October 24, 2020 meeting were approved by roll call vote.
3. Gary introduced our guests, who were present to run a Facilitated Discussion to solicit feedback on the future of Our Island Home (OIH), Michelle Munroe introduced Herb Taylor who led the discussion and Michelle took notes.
4. Herb shared his background in elderly care issues and reiterated the purpose of the meeting, noting that the process was designed to elicit feedback in three areas to be used in conjunction with other similar sessions being held with other stakeholders to form a consensus decision. The three areas of discussion were: Core Values for Nantucket regarding Care for Elder Adults, Facts/Assumptions that provide vital information to process and Options/Possibilities for the future (Strengths and Weaknesses).
5. Participants provided discussion and feedback that was documented in a shared screen document by Michelle. Bill Sherman noted that the ACNVT members would like the opportunity to review and clarify the notes Michelle took on the shared screen document and she agreed to send it to Kathy for circulation among the members and provide the edited version back to Michelle. The edited notes resulting from that effort is included at the end of these minutes and reflects the content of our discussion. The facilitated session concluded at approximately 11:15am and our OIH guests departed.
6. Peter Halle presented an update on the Noise Ordinance work group progress citing the likely inclusion of a proposed ban on gas-powered leaf blowers to take effect in 2025, as quieter electric

powered blowers replace them. He also noted that none of the other suggestions made by ACNVT were favorably received. Peter's suggestion that construction noise be limited during the summer season was also rejected except perhaps in the core downtown district. Peter noted that it appeared that even the current decibel level limits in the existing ordinance would be removed or limited because they were difficult to understand/enforce and were listed by outdated zoning codes. Peter suggested to update the zone applicability to include up to zone R20 but he doubts that proposal will be accepted. Peter offered to locate the current proposal and give it to Kathy for circulation among ACNVT members. The working group appeared to agree with the argument that limitations on construction and landscaping would negatively impact a major industry on the island. Peter noted that the work group was facilitated by Leslie Snell of the Planning Board and that most participants represented members of the construction and landscaping interests.

7. Gary noted that at a recent Planning Board meeting, an abutter had no issue with the construction project but asked that it not start during the summer months but their request was not considered. Peter responded that there actually was no construction noise ordinance during the summer season. Gary also noted that Madaket had implemented construction limitations during the summer season due to its limited road access.
8. Bill asked if any coordination had been done with the Nantucket Civic League and Peter responded that they had done so but there was no particular concern on their part.
9. Peter volunteered to continue to follow up and report back to ACNVT on this issue to see if a citizen's or Select Board warrant would be forthcoming for Town Meeting, at which point we could decide to take action.
10. It was moved, seconded and approved through a roll call, that the draft chat resolutions for the Howard Blitman Resolution would be consolidated by Kathy and circulated for ACNVT approval.
11. Gary called for any new business and Peter responded that he had sent to Kathy a neighbor's opposition paper to the ACK Now Short Term Rental Warrant proposal for circulation to our membership and potential attendees prior to next Saturday's meeting. He believes this paper has already been submitted to the Finance Committee which may already have considered at a recent meeting.

12. Gary noted the recent Inquirer & Mirror articles and Letters to the Editor discussions on the Short Term Rental warrant and Kathy responded that she had copied all of them into a document that she would circulate with ACNVT members. Gary noted an interesting point that Curtis Barnes had stated his opinion that warrant articles could not be submitted by PACs, only citizens. The ACK Now lawyer responded that as long as 10 validated citizens signed the warrant petition, that met the requirement. Gary noted that perhaps this action set a precedent for future ACNVT action on advocacy issues. Peter countered that perhaps our role is different than ACK Now and ACNVT should work through and more closely with the Select Board and Finance Committee. Gary noted that Denise Kronau had made a point that we were explicitly invited to Finance Committee (FinCom) meetings as members of the public. Gary suggested and Kathy agreed to find the upcoming FinCom meetings and circulate the schedule and any available agenda information.
13. Bill Sherman noted that ACNVT really had two roles as advisors to the Select Board, recommendations for changes to our own bylaws (as we did with our quorum definition) and also direct participation at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) with a representative who has voice but no vote. Peter suggested a topic for an upcoming meeting would be to act on the ATM role.
14. Peter asked if there was an association with which we could align to further our advocacy and Bill Sherman suggested the Nantucket Community Association (NCA) which is made up mostly of seasonal residents although year round members are also welcome. Kathy noted that there are also 26 neighborhood associations associated with the Nantucket Civic League (NCL). Bill explained the difference between NCA and the NCL, indicating that NCA had once thought of falling under the NCL umbrella but they are currently an independent organization.
15. Gary noted that ATM is currently planned for outdoors on June 5 and Bill Sherman suggested we wait until the formal town warrant is published and Kathy suggested that we might want to get our opinions noted to the FinCom ahead of their recommendation.
16. Kathy asked about the guest speakers at upcoming meetings and it was agreed that the January 23 meeting should be dedicated to ACK Now and that we should reschedule Rob Ranney (SSA) and John Brescher (Town Government Study Committee Chair) to future ACNVT meetings.

17. Gary noted that in a recent discussion with John Brescher, the TGSC had been requested by the Select Board to provide definitions and education to the public regarding town government alternatives as a next step so that public input to their work could be better informed.
18. Topics for future meetings were updated as follows:
- Update on Harbor Place and related transportation issues
  - Update on paid in-town parking, demand management parking
  - Status of Town alternative energy and energy efficiency initiatives and National Grid response regarding delaying or foregoing third seabed power cable from the mainland (with Lauren Sinatra), also Nantucket PowerChoice
  - Reporting of CRAC findings, recommendations
  - ACK NOW – Short term rental warrant article (Scheduled 1/23)
  - Preparation for ATM attendance and potential advocacy
19. There was a motion, seconded and approved by roll call to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Baird, Secretary

The following link represents the recording of this meeting located on the Town of Nantucket YouTube website.

[https://youtu.be/N9qv9xBz\\_p0](https://youtu.be/N9qv9xBz_p0)

Attachments:

- 1) Notes from OIH Stakeholder Meetings Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers, January 16, 2021 at 10am
- 2) Howard Blitman Resolution

# **Notes from OIH Stakeholder Meetings Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers, January 16, 2021 at 10am**

**Attendees:** Kathy Baird, William Gardner, Donald Green, Gary Beller, Peter Halle, Louis Bassano, Jane and Jon Delano, “Rosesarewe” (Mary Russell), William Sherman, Rachel Day, Robert Eisenstein, Herb Taylor, and Michelle Munroe

## **1. Core Values for Nantucket regarding Care for Older Adults**

- Adequate staffing
- Wages
- Accessibility of healthcare – a national issue
- Accessibility on Nantucket to people in need
- First Class accommodations - facility
- Care for residents, elders, extended families/friends within the community
- Programming – residents engaged with community – connections
- Aging population of Nantucket – Elder population as a whole, not just those who would be in OIH/Facility – meet the needs of all elder population
- Community services for elder community – beyond services at OIH/facility
- Resources of facility – not just the land – cost of whole project
- Include Continuum of care model
- Understand limited resources of providers to all community members
- Obtaining the proper staff/providers who enjoy working with elder population
- Administration in tune with care, not the bottom line
- Professional interactions with Medical providers
- Capacity - Not limited to community – extend to family of community
- Limited resources – funding

## **2. Facts/Assumptions that provide vital information to process**

- Limited resources – funding
- Nantucket is an island
- Present location has limitations – by nature of being a specific site
- Need Home like setting – residential setting
- Property value at current location
- Multiple priorities of Nantucket need to be addressed
- The open commercial property next to facility – Is this an option?
- Healthcare funding – may move to being nationalized
- Regulation changes to facilities will cause challenges in present location
- Staffing requirements to facilities
- Increase need for private rooms
- Nantucket Inn – example of other options town could look at to meet needs
- Examination of other possibilities
- Level of care – could be other than skill facility – personalized needs
- Senior Center and OIH joint collaboration/locations – understand the needs of full older adult population of Nantucket
- No need to re-invent the wheel – use of current models that are used elsewhere
- Understand full Population that is impacted and remember cost/benefit analysis

## **3. Options/possibilities for future (Strengths and Weaknesses)**

- **Building a new facility at current location**
  - *Strengths*
    - Reduction of change/continuity
    - Multiple Services
    - Location - Views
  - *Weakness*

- Budget and Cost of Building at present location
  - Disruption of Residents and Staff during construction
  - Limited – Land/buildable space – limit possibilities
  - Climate – rising tides
- **Building a new facility at new location**
  - *Strengths*
    - Multiple Services could be offered because of greater space
    - Customizing to needs more likely possible
    - Building to regulations – requirements
    - Future needs/requirements could be met
    - Less impact to Residents and Staff during construction
  - *Weakness*
    - Accessibility to existing public transportation
    - Zoning challenges
    - Cost - unknown (could be higher or lower)
    - Adapting to change – OIH in different location
- **Doing nothing**
- **Closing Our Island Home**
  - Subsidizing Transportation for families
  - Subsidizing other community services
  - Is this an option? – Seems to be belief that it is off the table?

It should be stated that there is an urgency to moving forward in obtaining a decision on the future of Our Island Home and starting the process, whatever the process.

Whatever option is decided upon there should be clear communication as to how the decision was reached and the benefit to the community. Need good public relations work.

## **HOWARD BLITMAN RESOLUTION**

At a Public Meeting held on January 16, 2021, the Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers passed the following resolution memorializing the loss of a valued Member, Howard Blitman:

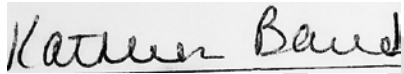
### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Nantucket Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers sends condolences to the family and friends of Howard Blitman, recognizing his many years of leadership as a Chair and a Member of the Advisory Committee.

Howard generously contributed his time, intelligence and experience to the betterment of the Nantucket Community. His enthusiasm and ability to speak his mind was rooted in his deep and wide knowledge. He is and will be missed.

**SO RESOLVED** this 16th Day of January, 2021.

Signed and sealed



Kathleen Baird  
Secretary  
Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers