

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS
Notes of meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, April 9, 2022 via Zoom

1. Attending members: Kathy Baird, Lou Bassano, Gary Beller, Bill Gardner, Don Greene, Peter Halle, and Mary Russell; Members absent included Peter Kahn, Sue Matloff and Bill Sherman. Guests included Jon and Jane Delano, Robert Levy and Barbara Tibbetts.
2. Chair Gary Beller opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m., read the script for Zoom meetings provided by the town and with a quorum present, the agenda for today's meeting and minutes for the February 26, 2022 meeting were approved by roll call vote.
3. Gary provided updates on the status of the public meeting law to permanently permit remote participation as part of the quorum including his letter to our legislators in support of the revision. Without this legislation, the temporary order expires July 15. Gary also noted pending legislation to create a 0.5 % local transfer tax on property sellers valued over \$2M, to be used for affordable housing.
4. Gary provided an update on our membership in that the town confirmed that Jay Cohen had been approved for appointment to ACNVT and the town had sent him notification but that he had not received it so Jay will need to follow up with the town if he is still interested in serving.
5. Gary also mentioned that ACNVT approved a resolution relative to the short term rental warrant articles and sent that resolution to the Select Board with a follow up letter to the editor at the Inquirer & Mirror. The letter sparked considerable controversy on this contentious issue that seems to have no clear consensus on resolution.
6. The discussion moved to the town's proposed changes to the town charter to address some of the recommendations of the Town Government Study Committee, and Don Green shared his experience in the Reading MA representative town government model. Lou Bassano suggested an increase in decision-making and spending authority to the Select Board could expedite action on more issues and projects.
7. After some discussion a resolution was unanimously approved by roll call vote to send a resolution to the Select Board in favor of Article 78 because it streamlines governing without sacrificing the right of people to be heard. A specific resolution was drafted by Peter Halle, approved at the meeting and circulated to ACNVT members for informational purposes.

8. It was agreed to defer discussions on Noise Bylaw revisions until the issue moves back to center stage.
9. Gary noted that there are laws in other states that prohibit discrimination against NVT and cited Austin vs. NH (residents and non-residents must be taxed in a substantially equal manner). Gary asked if anyone knew of similar legislation in MA, wondering if NVTs are missing out on benefits to which we are entitled. Gary asked for a volunteer to do more research on related MA legal decisions. Gary also noted that the town was awarding solar energy installation credits, but only for residents and questioned the efficacy of leaving out so many homeowners when island-wide cooperation would bring the greatest benefit.
10. Gary Beller designated Kathy Baird to represent ACNVT's positions at ATM including those included in resolutions presented to the Select Board on Articles 39, 42, 43 and 78.
11. It was agreed the next ACNVT meeting will either be May 14 or sometime in June (with the Town Manager, Libby Gibson) and the decision would be made after Annual Town Meeting.
12. There was a motion, seconded and approved by roll call to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Baird, Secretary

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sC43JMyAYI