

Siasconset Civic Association
July Annual Meeting
July 10, 2019

President Martha Polachi welcomed 50-60 members to the July Annual Meeting shortly after 6 pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After observing a moment of silence for friends and family members gone during the year, Ms. Polachi reported on a number of improvements that the Department of Public Works (DPW) undertook over the winter and spring to beautify 'Sconset, citing work in Larsen Park and at the Main Beach. She then thanked Peter Brodie for the village bulletin board (located at the bus shelter) he constructed on commission. Ms. Polachi noted that her remarks highlighted what also appears in the Civic Association Spring 2019 Newsletter, available online and in print at the rear of the Casino. Also available at the meeting were Civic Association postcards (made from a print of the painting that former Board member Susan Ried did in 2018 to thank the DPW for their work in restoring the 'Sconset Flagpole and Rotary), brochures, "20 is Plenty" bumper stickers, and village maps that she invited members to take and disseminate.

Citing work she hoped could be accomplished in the near future, Ms. Polachi mentioned concerns over the traffic flow at the Rotary (by those not honoring the circle); excessive speed and the need for a traffic flow study to be completed before the legal limit could be lowered to 20 mph; ongoing restoration work at the 'Sconset Fire House; and the need for a water bottle filling station in the village to accommodate the many bicyclists who visit.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Gene Hilzenrath presented the financials of the Civic Association, a statement showing cash balance for the year, along with income and expenses, actual for 2017 and 2018 as well as year-to-date for 2019. With a current cash balance of more than \$118,000, the organization can be considered fiscally secure. Membership included 162 households that had paid dues for 2019 before tonight's meeting with many more who paid at the door this evening. 2018 membership levels of 242 were expected to be met or surpassed.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Mary Will presented the report about the Civic Association scholarship (\$2,500), given annually to a recent Nantucket High School graduate who is a village resident going on to higher education or vocational training. The 2019 recipient, Miranda Shea, accepted her award, saying she would be using it to

fund the purchase of a special architectural computer required for her studies in Interior Design at Endicott College.

BYLAWS REVISION

Lynn Filipski introduced the work of the Bylaws Committee (also including CO North and Gail Walker, Esq), which has toiled over the winter to update the Civic Association's bylaws to accurately reflect the workings of the Board, use concise, clear language, and reflect the current laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She asked members to review the documents that have been provided that show the changes and updates so that they will be prepared to vote on their adoption at the Annual Meeting in August.

DARK SKY INITIATIVE

Gail Walker reported on the Dark Sky initiative she has spearheaded this year and reviewed cards that were available at the rear of the Casino that suggest five ways to "Keep 'Sconset in the Dark" so that we can continue to enjoy the stars at night. More information, as well as a link to the Code of Nantucket provisions protecting against light pollution, appears on the Civic Association website.

Ms. Walker then introduced Nic Platt, who demonstrated various lightbulbs that can be used at residences to reduce light pollution and encouraged 'Sconseters to use them for their outdoor lighting. Mr. Platt and his wife, Lucy Shurtleff, offered to donate bulbs to those interested, to further advance the initiative.

Ms. Walker then reported that the Town of Nantucket is considering converting some of the streetlights on Nantucket to LED fixtures to save money. While Town officials are sensitive to providing just enough light to allow for personal safety, there is some concern that the cobra-style light poles owned by National Grid will be converted to LEDs that are too bright for 'Sconset's needs and not in keeping with its historical character. Ms. Walker said she would be monitoring developments.

Ms. Walker also reported that, thanks to a donation from Alex and Christine Seaver, the Civic Association is offering flashlights that members may pick up when leaving, as a reminder that keeping a Dark Sky can go hand-in-hand with personal safety when walking around in the evening.

BIKE SAFETY PROGRAM

Lynn Filipski announced that the Civic Association-sponsored Bike Safety Day would take place on July 17 at 9 am on New Street in front of the Casino. Police officers will close the street for an hour or more, run the

participating children through an obstacle course, check that their helmets are properly fitted, offer safety tips, and offer “give-aways” to encourage participation. This year the Civic Association will give rear-wheel reflectors to the participants, having given bike lights, bells and other safety promoting prizes in the past.

CLEAN TEAM PROGRAM

Whitney Schrauth reported on the first-year activities and successes of the ‘Sconset Clean Team. Funded by the Civic Association, Clean Team volunteers meet periodically to clean-up various areas of the village, collecting trash from bushes and roadways armed with plastic garbage bags, gloves and gripper sticks. The DPW has kindly sent trucks to remove the volunteers’ haul. The most recent Clean Team outing covered the beach from the northern end of Codfish Park to the geotubes near Sankaty Light. On that same day, Nantucket’s Clean Team sent their volunteers from Sankaty Beach Club south to the toe of the bluff below the Lighthouse. Ms. Schrauth announced names of various groups (the Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund) and individuals who have “adopted” roads or areas of the village to keep clean throughout the warmer months and thanked them for their efforts.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee, chaired by Kate Starrett, will meet soon and present its report as well as a proposed slate of Officers for the following year at the August Meeting. Lynn Filipski asked that people interested in serving on the Civic Association Board self- nominate or speak with current Board members.

NEW BUSINESS

Martha Polachi opened the floor to members who wished to raise new business.

Helmut Weymar spoke on behalf of the Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund (SBPF), saying that their recent setback, the Conservation Committee’s denial of SBPF’s application to extend the geotubes installation at the toe of the eroding North Bluff, would require the organization to appeal its decision. While it will assuredly be an added expense to their efforts to thwart erosion, it will be necessary and he asked for the support of Civic Association members.

Linda Holland thanked the Civic Association Board for its efforts to have ‘Sconset looking so good and spoke of her concern that the phone poles in the historic center of the village (which carry cable wire only: the other utilities having been buried long ago) are both an eyesore and road safety hazard. She also encouraged those in the room to “think globally and act locally,” saying

that many of us have great experience in solving real world problems. She asked that we put our heads together and help find solutions for Nantucket's serious problems with affordable housing, water quality and excessive traffic.

John Shea thanked the Board for their good work and encouraged members to donate to the Civic Association above and beyond the payment of dues so that we could continue our Civic efforts and advocacy for 'Sconset.

Questions related to road condition, missing or present signage, etc. were raised and Ms. Polachi explained who in Town government was best equipped to fix each type of problem.

Pam Murphy made a plea to reduce noise pollution in the village by mowing lawns with a solar-powered mower bot and by encouraging the landscapers to use quieter hedge trimmers.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Polachi concluded the meeting at 7:10 pm after giving a special thanks to Amy Manning for the landscaping and maintenance she provides free of charge at the Rotary, and after invitating to members to stay and enjoy the refreshments provided.

She also thanked the Casino, specifically Dave Dunn and Mike Coleman, for all they do in allowing the Civic Association use of the building and grounds for our meetings.

Finally, she encouraged members to attend the Annual Meeting and Member BBQ on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lathrop Will
Secretary