

Nauset Heights Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2016
Blair Home
33 Nauset Road

- President Jim Tyng called the meeting to order at precisely 9:30 a.m. Approximately 55 people attended the meeting on a sunny, very warm morning.
- Jim thanked Betsey and Grove Blair for hosting the meeting at “Cottage B.” He indicated that as is our custom, a donation will be made to the Lower Cape Outreach Council on their behalf. He explained that the NHA is a Massachusetts corporation and it is mandatory that we hold an Annual Meeting with votes on appropriate topics and submit paperwork to the Commonwealth.
- A moment of silence was offered in memory of two NHA members who died during the past year – Bruce Ayer and Fred Butler
- Jim introduced the current Board of Directors and Officers
- New members to the NHA – Neil and Denise Conroy – gave a brief introduction and overview
- Secretary’s Report: King reviewed a summary of the 2016 Member Meeting held on July 9, as well as a summary of the minutes from the August 22, 2015 Annual Meeting, for which a vote of acceptance by the members present was unanimous
- Treasurer’s Report: Fred reported the NHA is very strong financially and explained the different accounts that are maintained. He maintains approximately \$9000 in the savings and checking accounts for general operations and the balance in the Capital funds. Major expenses are the stairs (\$3000 for insurance), \$1800 for D&O insurance to bond the Board and officers, and the subsidy for the Lawn Party.

He indicated a new “business enterprise” within the NHA was started early in 2015 involving a Nauset Heights book to commemorate the Centennial history of the community. He explained he required the preparation of a business plan to warrant \$1000 in seed money from the general operating account. As of the Annual Meeting, the NHA has spent \$11,667.09 on all aspects of publishing the book, as well as a Nauset Heights aerial photo, and has realized \$12,726 in revenue from all sales, including an aerial photo sold at the meeting, generating a profit of \$1119.

Rob Cunningham asked if there are any plans for an additional book printing. Jim responded by saying there were actually three (3) separate printings resulting in a total of 475 books, of which we sold 462, donated 12 and have one copy left. We would need to order in blocks of 100 (and realize 125 with 25 free copies), which would cost \$2000. Two local book stores which sell the book have expressed some interest in additional copies. Jim stated we will poll the membership by email in the fall to see about interest in additional copies to better evaluate spending the \$2000 up-front. He did indicate that

if we did sell out an additional 125 copies, the profit is \$1000 for these incremental orders.

Jim explained the status of the aerial posters of Nauset Heights – 50 small posters which are gone and 60 of the large posters with 6 remaining unsold copies. The current plan is to sell out until gone.

Hank Schumacher proposed the \$1119 profit from the “business enterprise” account be donated to the Nauset Schools Summer Science Institute as a scholarship. Kathy Pattison proposed an amendment to make a one-time donation and look for other options. Jim indicated the Board did discuss Hank’s proposal from 2015 regarding increasing charitable donations to \$10,000 and decided to stay with the current \$1200 level annually. Fred stated these new considerations are topics that should be discussed by the Board at their upcoming September 10, 2016 meeting, to which Hank or anyone is welcome to attend. Perhaps the Nauset STEM program warrants being added to the list of donations. Hank revised his proposal and moved to reduce the \$1119 amount to \$1000 as a donation from the NHA to the Nauset STEM program. At a membership vote the motion was heavily defeated. It was agreed this topic will be discussed at the September meeting.

- Jim presented a review of the 2016 NHA Events, starting with the Spring Fling Clean-up which was the best-attended in its history with over 25 participants. Janet Bush hosted the June Horseshoe Crab Walk & Talk, which drew 40-50 attendees out on Nauset Spit. The Golf Tournament had to be cancelled for an insufficient number of participants and we will consider holding it in August next year.

The Lawn Party drew lower turnout than the Centennial event (350 attendees) in 2015, with approximately 155 adults and 30 kids. Jim thanked Ali and Nick Denis for hosting this wonderful event, and reported a \$100 donation in their name was made to the Friends of Snow Library. Jim emphasized that a “2-minute Survey” was sent to each NHA member regarding the Lawn Party and that 40 responses had already been returned. He encourage members to please complete the survey.

The Sand Sculpture Contest, which had been in existence for about 4 years, had to be cancelled due to a lack of adult participation. We will schedule it for 2017 but need at least three (3) new adult members to help run the event, and a boat that can be used to ferry supplies from Priscilla Landing to the event site.

The Tennis Tournament was the largest field ever in recent times with Ladies’ and Men’s Singles and Mixed Doubles

The Beach Bonfire attracted about 50 people and began with a foggy evening with improving weather

Coming up are both the annual Celebrate the Waters weekend which includes a bird walk on the Spit, led by Bob Prescott of Audubon on September 17, as well as the NHA Fall Clean-up on October 15. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped make this year’s events a success.

- In his final meeting as President, Jim thanked 7 people who helped him over the past two years – Carl, King, Fred, Kathy, Dave, Sandy and especially his wife Pat, without whom he would have been floundering hopelessly
- Barb Wigren presented the Nominating Committee slate of new directors and officers for the coming year:
 - Sandy Davidson – President
 - Dave Strickler – 1st Vice President
 - Charlie Carlson – 2nd Vice President
 - Jim Tyng – Past President
 - Ann Deming – Director to 2018 (having filled a one-year open term)
 - Nancy Case – Director to 2019
 - Todd Shipman – Director to 2019

There were no additional nominations from the floor and the slate was approved unanimously by the members. Sandy thanked Jim for his outstanding leadership over the past 2 years and counted on his counsel during her term.

- New & Other Business – Jim gave an overview of the Nauset Spit Spat indicating the Town has been a participant in 5 different lawsuits over jurisdiction of the north end of the Spit. Among them is the question of which Town will manage the end of the Spit which ruled in Orleans' favor by the Massachusetts DEP. The issue of applicability of Eastham's bylaw prohibiting beach driving is being argued in Massachusetts Land Court.

Historically, the Town line was established in 1797 on a line from the middle of the Town Cove, extending out into the Atlantic ESE at 112°. Research strongly suggests that at that time, this line ran through the center of the inlet, and the Orleans Selectmen have challenged this fixed 112° azimuth location today in Land Court, stating the boundary should follow the moving inlet, as is the case in most similar boundary arrangements elsewhere. If Orleans wins this challenge, it would obviate Eastham's bylaw on beach ORVs, at which time Orleans would need to deal with the National Seashore (NPS). The Seashore owns 6 lots that were purchased somewhere out on the Spit, across which they could challenge vehicular travel, but they would not be able to back the Eastham bylaw restriction. Another Land Court ruling is pending regarding 90 acres of land the Hannah family purchased in 1926 to farm beach grass, and it is conceivable the Town would be required to share some portion of its ORV fees with the family as settlement.

The Inlet Road issue – from Aspinet to Callanan's Pass – is the subject of actions with the Massachusetts DEP. The Town won a verdict twice, both of which were appealed by the Aspinet residents, who are awaiting an answer on the current appeal. If Orleans prevails again, Aspinet/Inlet Road would return as an exit route off the North Spit again.

NHA Stairs – Jim said the NHA is working on an agreement with the McCormacks, with whom he met earlier in the summer. The McCormacks are interested in negotiating a solution without having the lawyers involved. A mid-October resolution is anticipated. Jim has already met with the Orleans Conservation Commission and the National Seashore (NPS).

Conservation Trust and Cullen Property – Charlie Carlson described the status of the two lots and their acquisition by the Orleans Conservation Trust. He described a meeting that was held earlier at the Cunningham’s home. The Betty Cullen Trust will sell the two parcels for \$600,000 -- which is one-third below estimated fair market value – and it will be for the benefit of Nauset Heights and Grandview residents. Support from NH residents has been positive and the plans are to construct walking paths in the woods but not dedicate any land to parking. It is felt parking should be handled at the Doane Road circle, where residents would walk down the steps onto the beach and connect there with the preserve. The earlier meeting was productive and Charlie reported the OCT has earmarked \$100,000 toward this purchase, an additional \$100,000 was donated anonymously, as well as an additional \$20,000 from other donations on Nauset Heights.

A question was asked about signs at the stairs, and Jim explained they were being repaired/upgraded and would soon be replaced

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kingsley H. Nelson
Recording Secretary