

## Annual Meeting of Nauset Heights Association

**Date:** August 20, 2011

**Location:** Home of Betsey Kenna, 30 Nauset Road

NHA president King Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and thanked Betsey Kenna for hosting the meeting.

A moment of silence was held for members who had "crossed the bar" during the past year: Herb Bierkan (8/25/10), Kevin McCarthy (9/13/10), Tom Birchfield (10/11/10), Jeanette Starr (11/8/10), Beth Ernst (3/15/11), Lillian Thomas (3/26/11), and Herb Nelson (7/25/11).

**Guest Speaker:** Janet Bush introduced guest speaker, George E. Price, Jr., Superintendent of the Cape Cod National Seashore who talked about the history of the National Park Service and specifically the CCNS, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. He also answered questions regarding the impending removal of cottages on North Beach, piping plovers and the predator issues, seals and other issues. King thanked Superintendent Price and presented him with a NHA cap, as well as the opportunity to select a nonprofit to which a donation would be made in his honor.

**Officers and Board of Directors** were introduced. King noted that Officers serve two year terms and are entering their second year.

King Nelson – President (2012)  
Carl Trevison – 1<sup>st</sup> VP (2012)  
Joan Flynn – Past President (2012)  
Janet Bush – Corresponding Secretary (2012)  
Joan Corcoran – Newsletter Secretary (2012)  
Sandy Davidson – Recording Secretary (2012)  
Fred Turner – Treasurer (2012)  
Bob Munson – Clerk (2012)

Kathy Pattison – Director to 2013  
Skip Appleyard – Director to 2013  
Pete Butcher – Director to 2012  
Stephen Hopkins – Director to 2012  
Marilyn Ayer – Director to 2011  
Bill Dunham – Director to 2011

King thanked Marilyn Ayer and Bill Dunham who have fulfilled their terms on the Board of Directors and are leaving the board.

King noted that Bill Mitchell and Joan Flynn served as Nominating Committee and called upon Bill for the slate of directors. Bill brought forth the names of Tina Butler and Joyce Hoffman to serve as members of the Board of Directors for a three year term, through August 2014. There being a motion and second and no discussion, Tina and Joyce were unanimously voted in. Congratulations!

**Introductions:** King noted that we had asked attendees to include their address on their name tags to help folks get to know each other. He invited any new members to stand and identify themselves. There being none (or some shy people who didn't want to stand!), the meeting continued.

**Minutes:** Abbreviated minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2011 were presented and approved. The full minutes were available to members at the meeting and will be posted on our website.

**Treasurer's Report:** Fred Turner presented and reviewed the treasurer's report, NHA has 189 paid members, the largest number ever. 123 donated to the stairs fund which will be held for future replacement expenses. He reviewed the major expenditures, including \$3K liability insurance costs for the stairs, \$2K for printing and mailings, \$1300 for the lawn party. The Lawn Party costs \$2700 and attendees cover \$1400. Total operations balance, including the stairs, is approximately \$43,700. There was a brief discussion of allowing people to opt in to receive materials via email to save on printing and mailing costs. It was also suggested that we inform our insurance agent about the gate at the stairs to see if we can get some relief on our insurance costs. It was noted that there is a sign at the bottom of the stairs, but not a gate. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report, and it was so voted.

**Priscilla Landing:** Bill Dunham gave an update on the Priscilla Landing storm drain project, due to start this fall. He also said that he would be willing to help with the Doane Road storm drain issue.

**Aspinet Road:** Jim Tyng gave an update on the Aspinet Road issue which was discussed at the July NHA meeting.

On Tuesday, July 19, the Orleans Selectmen held a working meeting to review their legal options with regard to the Aspinet Road closure and guards. Jim explained that no public comment or questions were permitted, but the large public gathering included most of the NHA Officers and many more of our neighbors. After a lengthy discussion, the Selectmen determined that the Town needed to do whatever was possible to protect a second access to / from the North Spit Beach. Consequently, the Selectmen voted to move forward *simultaneously* on the following actions:

1. Meet with *all* of the abutters of Aspinet, not just the five who have organized the closure, in hopes that a majority of all these residents could reach a different result.
2. Meet with the Cape Cod National Seashore to coordinate concerns and response.
3. Proceed with the legal process of asserting and protecting the *prescriptive rights* over Aspinet for the benefit of the Town and its residents.
4. Proceed with the legislative process of laying out a "new" town road over Aspinet, and taking the road by *eminent domain* for the benefit of the Town and its residents, to be effected by a public vote at the next Orleans Town Meeting in May.

In the meantime, following the NHA Members Meeting on Saturday, July 9, many of our neighbors have expressed a strong desire for the NHA to take a stand regarding this issue. In preparation for today's Annual Members Meeting the NHA board and officers developed the attached "Position Statement" which we believe embodies the purpose and spirit of our community Association, without pitting neighbor against neighbor. It also states our community's desire to push the Town to resolve this on-going issue, and to support the needs of our community for access, safety, and parking regulation. This statement, which was unanimously approved by the board and officers, reads:

The Nauset Heights Association believes that free and safe passage over all of our community's roads should be a protected benefit for all of our community's residents. This benefit includes passage to and from the beach by foot or by resident vehicle, walking or jogging on our community's roads, and resident parking on our community's roads. The closure of any such road(s) creates an unacceptable precedent, imposes a detriment to our community's residents, and diminishes the long-standing, cooperative spirit of our community.

The Nauset Heights Association encourages the Town of Orleans to aggressively manage, as necessary, the issues relating to public access over our community's roads. This includes public access to and from the North Spit Beach, issues of public health and safety, and controlling public parking on our community's roads. The Nauset Heights Association is ready to work in a cooperative manner to achieve these objectives.

Jim asked for questions or comments. A number of members expressed appreciation for the adoption of the statement and complimented Jim and the other officers who crafted the statement which, as Jim noted, is in keeping with our mission statement.

As a follow-up, it was noted that Officers Jim Tyng, Carl Trevison and Fred Turner met with the selectmen to ascertain where things stood:

1. Selectmen have not yet met with the Aspinet homeowners. A letter was going out the beginning of the week proposing a meeting within ten days.
2. There has been regular communication between the Town and the National Seashore.
3. The process is moving forward. If anyone would like to show documented usage over 20 years or deeded access, please send a letter to Orleans Town Administrator John Kelly.
4. A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> regarding funding for the regional school system. There may also be a warrant article to give power to the Selectmen to enact eminent domain for Aspinet Rd on a full or limited easement basis.

Jim explained that the Town is committed to ensuring more than one access to/from Nauset Beach.

King thanked Jim, Carl and Fred for all of their efforts.

**NH Bumper Stickers:** King noted that this year there have been significant traffic backups for Nauset Public Beach, with traffic stretching well beyond Cedarland and occasionally to East Orleans center. To help police identify Nauset Heights residents in order to facilitate residents'

access to the Heights during back-ups and to help ascertain resident/non-resident status of cars parked on the neighborhood's private roads, a new bumper sticker has been developed by Kathy Pattison. Kathy circulated a couple of drafts of the sticker which features the NHA logo and explained that the stickers will be 3"x3"vinyl with serialized numbers. Members will receive information and a request for vehicle information (i.e. name, address, make and model of vehicle/s) with their renewal letter. Stickers will be sent in May. Jim also noted that the Town was enthusiastic about this system, and the police will be educated on the sticker program which may help with parking issues as well. A question was raised regarding stickers for guests and/or renters. Jim noted that this needs to be discussed further and a process would be needed so that the sticker distribution doesn't get out of hand.

**NHA Stairs:** Carl Trevison gave an update on the stairs, noting that the gate and signs seem to have caused some discouragement of unauthorized use. Gary Bissonette has cut back some of the vegetation and will water seal the stairs in the fall. Members were asked to encourage renters to use the stairs instead of Callanan's Pass in order to cut down on the vehicle/pedestrian hazards.

**Appreciation** was expressed by King to Bill Dunham for his efforts pushing the storm drain project forward, to Joan Corcoran for the newsletter, to Carl Trevison and Jon Wigren for the gate and stairs, to Kathy Pattison for the website, banner and NHA logo, and to Bob Munson and his daughter Debbie for their work on the Google email list.

**Special Events:** Jim Tyng spoke briefly on the special events held throughout the summer. Jim Tyng reported that 12 people participated in the golf outing and 24 people competed in the tennis tournament, both of which will be held in August next year. The Lawn Party, held at Tyngs, was a resounding success. Next year the Lawn Party will be held in July. King announced that the Fall Clean up will be held Saturday, October 15, setting out from the Nelson and the Flynn homes.

**Suggestion Box:** King reminded folks that there is a suggestion box to receive comments, ideas, and additional email addresses of family members.

**Bylaws:** King noted that NHA's bylaws were reviewed and fine-tuned by the board of directors in compliance with our bylaws. They are available online at the [nausetheights.org](http://nausetheights.org) website.

**Dogs:** Attendees were reminded that Town regulations mandates that dogs must be kept on a leash or on your property. No free range dogs. Please remind your guests and renters.

**New Business:**

1. Kate McCarthy noted that tent caterpillars have infested a tree on Nauset Heights Road. She urged everyone to check their trees and asked that the infected branch be removed so that other trees would not be infected. King asked for the address and offered to contact the Town Highway Department about removal.
2. Kevin Flynn noted that there are more police patrolling private roads—something he had expressed concern about during the July membership meeting. Residents were reminded to lock their cars. King will forward any announcements from the police department.
3. Trish O'Connor said that a "slow sign" was needed on the curve. This will be discussed on Tuesday night at Town Hall. She also cited a drainage issue. These items, too, will be discussed with the Town Highway Department.

Betsey Kenna was thanked for hosting the meeting. Betsey talked about the history of the house which was originally built in 1901. King presented Betsey with the opportunity to select a charity to which a donation would be made in her honor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Davidson, Recording Secretary