



THE NANTUCKET FUND™

Small Group Advisory Committee Meeting – February 20, 2018

Focus: Elder Needs on Nantucket

After our September 2017 Advisory Committee ("AC") meeting, it was suggested by several AC members that this committee meet more often throughout the year to discuss specific topics. Building on that great suggestion, we scheduled our first small group advisory committee meeting and chose Elder Affairs as the subject given the timely completion of the Elder Needs Assessment. Any AC member is always invited to attend if the subject matter is of interest to them and if they would like to join the conversation. We were pleased to have 12 attendees self-identify and participate in this first session.

Margaretta Andrews and Tucker Holland began by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending the first "Small Group Advisory Committee Meeting". Margaretta spoke to the high value the Foundation places on the input from this group of community leaders. The small group advisory committee meetings are designed to allow for more in-depth conversations on specific topics or community issues.

Tucker introduced Julie Fitzgerald from Nantucket Center for Elder Affairs as this meeting's guest speaker. NCEA is a nonprofit organization that acts as the "friends of the Saltmarsh Center" and recently commissioned an Elder Needs Assessment through UMass Boston's Center for Social and Demographic Research. With funding support from ReMain Nantucket and the Nantucket Fund, NCEA commissioned the study to better understand the needs of Nantucket's elder and aging population.

Julie Fitzgerald spoke to the current issues the NCEA and the Saltmarsh Center are facing, particularly around the age of the building and the inadequate space that it provides. NCEA is facing a "crossroads" as they own the building but are not responsible for the senior center's operations. This causes them to focus all their funds on building maintenance and less on their mission – which is to support programming needs at the Saltmarsh. She spoke to how the needs assessment highlighted the need for a larger and more comprehensive senior center as well as a future need for even more space as the number of elders living on Nantucket is expected to rise exponentially over the next ten years.

The group discussed how Nantucket might benefit from a complete "Community Center" which would offer a more holistic approach and space to address the wide variety of community needs on Nantucket. This center would be open year-round and all day – providing space for senior center type activities– similar to a YMCA or a Boys and Girls Club.

In the short term, there was consensus that NCEA might benefit from a strategic planning that would address the short term needs of the Saltmarsh but also think about the future needs and goals of NCEA as an organization. This strategic plan would help NCEA build a "case statement" as to why there is a need for more funding, municipal or private, for programming and services for Nantucket's Elders. This would help everyone begin to connect the dots and address the unique needs of our aging community.

Community Foundation for Nantucket

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Attendees:

Molly Anderson

Janis Carreiro

Renee Ceeley

Rachel Day

Tessandra De Alberdi

Ella Finn

Joe Hale

Tucker Holland

Peter McKay

Georgia Snell

Michael Varbalow

Mimi Young

Margaretta Andrews (Staff)

Kristin Campbell (Staff)

Carlisle Jensen (Staff)

Jeanne Miller (Staff)

Julie Fitzgerald (Guest Presenter)