



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
FOR NANTUCKET

Advisory Committee Meeting – October 12, 2021 -ZOOM  
*Due to COVID-19 we held our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Advisory Committee meeting on Zoom*

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> thirty community leaders joined us on screen to discuss the current culture on Nantucket and community concerns that need to be addressed. Margaretta Andrews opened the meeting with a quick overview of the meeting goals and an updated the group on the Foundation's year. A few highlights from the year included:

- Awarded \$3 million in Emergency Relief grants in response to COVID-19.
- Awarded \$225k to island nonprofits through the Nantucket Fund.
- Created 10 new funds, including 3 Donor Advised Funds, several Community Funds including the Emergency Food Fund, Nantucket Equity Advocates Fund, Keep Nantucket Real Fund, Nantucket Housing Trust Fund and the Behavioral Health Initiative Fund. We also created an Emergency Medical Travel Fund last fall with a \$500,000 investment from the NCH Community Initiative's year 4 award.
- Awarded ReMain Nantucket Fund grants to 25 nonprofits.
- Managed the final year of the Nantucket Cottage Hospital Community Initiative grant – will award \$1.1 Million in November.
- Convened community members to discuss a possible community center.
- Created the new Offshore Wind Fund with \$2.5 million in funds received as part of the Good Neighbor Agreement with Vineyard Wind to mitigate any negative impact on our community.
- Coordinated a Behavioral Health Assessment in collaboration with NCH, Fairwinds and NAMI.
- Grew the Nantucket Fund Endowment to nearly \$10 million.
- Obtained \$1.85 million in Federal funds to address food insecurity over the next two years.

Bob Felch, vice-president of the Board of Trustees continued the conversation by discussing the committee's responses to the pre-meeting survey. In the survey, we asked everyone to identify what they believed were the top three needs facing Nantucket today. The following needs were identified:

- Affordable Housing (#1)
- Behavioral Health (#2)
- Coordination/ Expansion of Human Services (#3)
- Staff Retention
- Continuing Education / Expanded opportunities for vocational education
- Food Insecurity
- Diversity in Leadership and in other professional level leaders
- Sea level rise / climate change

Everyone on the zoom call agreed that Housing is the number one need facing our Island today. As described in the survey responses, housing really is the "Achilles Heel". The Island is currently grappling with an inadequate supply of affordable options for housing, a lack of year-round rentals, as well as numerous other barriers to homeownership. Bob asked the group what it would take to properly address this issue. A few ideas: working to

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establish a permanent stream of funding to support affordable homeownership, changing zoning laws to allow for apartment style homes, requiring businesses to provide staff housing, increasing lobbying and activism at the state level, increase year-round rental supply. The conversation then moved to discussing Behavioral Health. Margaretta shared a brief update on the CFN sponsored Behavioral Health Assessment. The consultants are preparing to update the Advisory Committee on the assessment and their findings on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. A separate zoom link will be sent.

The conversation moved along to discuss **Community Wellbeing on Nantucket**. For this meeting, we defined Community Wellbeing as the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and health conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfill their potential.

Melissa Philbrick, Community Foundation Trustee led the committee through a discussion on the state of Community wellbeing on Nantucket. Melissa asked whether attendees felt that the trend in community wellness was improving or deteriorating, and every single person felt it was getting worse. It was clear from the discussions that the COVID-19 pandemic and the busy summer season led to a very difficult few months for everyone. Roberto Santamaria stated that he noticed a toxicity in our community and an extreme level of burnout in all sectors of the workforce. The presurvey responses also noted that the quality of life on Island has worsened over the past few years and is heading in a downward direction. The survey responses also reported that there is a growing divide between the year-round and seasonal populations. This conflict is something that always has existed but appears to be greater than ever.

Jennifer Psaradelis and Beth Hallett reported that the school system is trying their best to address the social and emotional needs of their students and staff, but they are struggling to make up for the learning loss due to COVID19. Jamie Foster from the Boys and Girls Club also noted that his staff is seeing the effects of the pandemic, particularly with the younger students. They also see housing to be a huge challenge when recruiting staff and faculty and as a result are not fully staffed this year. On a positive note, they are thrilled that students are back in school full-time.

The group also discussed why so many have made Nantucket home and the opportunity associated with living on Nantucket. Chris Sleeper reported that as a new entrepreneur the economic opportunity on Island is undeniable. He is also inspired by how many people are invested in making the Island a better place to live and work. Brooke Mohr echoed his sentiments by stating that the committee, as community leaders, have the ability to make positive change on Island.

The meeting closed with a quick discussion of coastal resiliency and sea level rise. Karen Beattie commended the town and other organizations for taking the time and energy to address sea level rise.

Carlisle shared that we will be convening the Advisory Committee a handful of times this year to discuss specific community needs. The first small group discussion will focus on food insecurity. These will be open to all committee members as well as other community members involved in addressing food insecurity.

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**Advisors in attendance:**

Karen Beattie  
Ken Beaugrand  
Jason Bridges  
Janis Carreiro  
Susan Chambers  
Sunny Daily  
Darcie Evans  
Matt Fee  
Jamie Foster  
Cam Gammill  
Libby Gibson  
Chris Glowacki  
Jason Graziadei

Elizabeth Hallett  
Taylor Hilst  
Wendy Hudson  
Tim Madden  
Kimal McCarthy  
Beth Ann Meehan  
Brook Mohr  
Steven Murphy  
Jennifer Psaradelis  
Roberto Santamaria  
Ann Scott  
Chris Sleeper  
Georgia Snell  
Marianne Stanton  
David Worth  
Mimi Young

**Staff / Trustees in attendance:**

Margaretta Andrews  
Bob Felch  
Carlisle Jensen  
Jeanne Miller  
Melissa Philbrick  
Geoff Verney