



Nantucket Notes

100 Years Strong

Our Mission:

- Preserve
the island's resources
- Improve
the quality of island living
- Educate
the public on island issues
- Encourage
participation in island government

Voters Meet the Candidates at NCL Public Forum

Candidates for the Board of Selectmen, Land Bank Commission and Shellfish Advisory Board presented their views on issues and appealed for voter support at the Nantucket Civic League's annual "Meet the Candidates" forum on March 28, 2015 at the Public Safety Facility.

NCL President Allen Reinhard welcomed over 75 attendees, and NCL Vice President Peter Morrison moderated candidates' presentations and their responses to questions from Josh Balling of the *Inquirer and Mirror* and from the audience.



Candidate **Dawn Hill Holdgate** emphasized her Town government experience, twelve years' of service on the Historic District Commission, and current service on the Board of Housing Nantucket.

Board of Selectmen

Clifford Williams recounted his experience in labor relations and Town government experience on the Finance Committee for five years, and service on other committees.



Top three challenges facing the Town: *Williams* mentioned sewers and financing the sewer system, Baxter Road coastal erosion, and unfunded liability of health care and other benefits of Town employees. *Holdgate* mentioned moving of the fuel tank farm, parking, and affordable housing.

Generating greater citizen involvement in Town government: *Both candidates* favor holding Annual Town Meetings on a Saturday to increase participation, but would leave that decision to the voters.

Traffic congestion: *Holdgate* proposed more valet parking, extension of bike paths, and expansion of bus service to resolve traffic congestion; she also wanted to learn more about parking stickers. *Williams* favored consultation with downtown businesses on potential solutions and suggested pay-to-park kiosks as a possibility.

Town offices downtown: *Williams* wants to revisit the bylaw requiring town offices to be downtown; the issue relates to parking, but he was unsure employees must be based downtown. *Holdgate* supports two Town campuses, because it is important to have Town employee presence downtown.

Economic development: *Holdgate* cited a need for public/private dialogue and openness to fresh ideas. *Williams* cited paved roads and noted the critical importance of police and fire protection.

Affordable housing: *Williams* underscored the gravity of this issue and its bearing on retention of Town employees. He added that too much money is being taken out of Sachem Path by the state. *Holdgate* asserted that Article 99 should be adopted to assure accessible rental housing. *Both* mentioned the Rich-

mond Group initiative off Old South Road, favoring a private sector initiative. *Both* mentioned the Richmond Group initiative off Old South Road favoring a private sector initiative

Merit pay for town employees: *Holdgate* said that she needs to do more research, while *Williams* favors rewarding employees based on performance.

High cost of island living for municipal employees: *Williams* noted that housing is critical and cited a need for long term contracts with landlords to assure that rent is paid; he suggested a comparative study on Town employees' compensation with other communities. *Holdgate* wants to assure that employees are paid correctly and would favor options such as housing banks to incentivize the private sector to provide affordable housing.

Hard armoring of Baxter Road bluff: *Holdgate* was not sure that scouring would damage neighboring beaches, but needed more information. *Williams* proposed staying with the current solution of geotubes to see how it works.

Parking on brick sidewalks: *Holdgate* sees this as an accessibility problem, especially for the handicapped; *Williams* suggested the possibility of a parking garage.

Accessible housing incentives: *Holdgate* would study this further, especially incentives for the private sector. *Williams* opined that it would be difficult to bring expensive land into use for affordable housing. He suggested the use of Town or Land Bank property rather than private property.

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Winter 2015

Officers

Allen Reinhard ...
president

Peter Morrison ...
vice president

Charlie Stott
recording secretary

Rick Atherton ...
treasurer

Mary Wawro ...
communications secretary

Peter Louderback ...
clerk



Forums - continued from pg 1

Land Bank

Incumbent *Philip Bartlett* spoke about his 30 years' service on the Land Bank Commission and his service on the School Committee and the Finance Committee, which he chaired for 22 years. He attended Cornell University and served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Jeanne Casey Miller described herself as a 30 year resident who has spent 25 years as the director of the Montessori Children's House of Nantucket and is currently the program director of the Community Foundation for Nantucket. She has been an Athenaeum trustee, chair of the Town scholarship committee and executive director of the 'Sconset Trust.

Richard Glidden described himself as a lifelong resident who has practiced real estate law for his entire career. He has served on many boards including the Nantucket Boys and Girls Club.

Land Bank acquisition priorities: *Bartlett* accords high priority to parcels that are adjacent to existing Land Bank properties. He noted the importance of the former FAA site at the Head of Plains. *Miller* favors acquiring more properties on Washington Street in the short term; a long-term goal should be to save money for properties with vital habitat and the protection of endangered species. *Glidden* agreed with *Miller* on Washington Street, mentioned the use of the big beach easement program, adding that incentives other than tax breaks should be sought.

New club house at Miacomet Golf Club: *Miller* supports either renovation or a new club house (preferably the former). *Glidden* concurred with either renovation or a new club house, as the existing facility is 50 years old. *Bartlett* favors members of the club shouldering more of the cost for a new club house, noting that they have not wanted to pay through a dues increase or assessment. He opposes the Land Bank subsidizing golf – the club should run on its own revenue.

Use of Land Bank properties for private functions: *Glidden* regards this as inappropriate for the Land Bank, especially events that generate revenue for the user; he does not favor leasing properties. *Bartlett* as well opposes the Land Bank leasing properties. Caterers want to use beaches, but the Town and Land Bank have regulations and such uses cannot be denied. Money raising functions are not appropriate. *Miller* wants to see properties used more, with users sharing in maintenance costs.

Ladies Professional Golf Association tournament: *Bartlett* opposes this. *Miller* said this tournament is no longer on the table, although she supported it last year as an experiment that would be good for the economy. *Glidden* agreed that the tournament could be a boost to Nantucket's economy.

Partnering with the Town on projects like the Francis Street pocket park: *Miller* strongly favors the idea of collaboration. *Glidden* concurred, so long as there is a net gain for the community. The

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board (SHAB)

No candidates for SHAB will appear on the April 14, 2015 ballot. *Andrew Lowell* introduced himself as a write-in candidate who has served on the Conservation Commission and represented the ConCom on the Town's Planning and Economic Development Commission.

Watch the "Meet the Candidates" Forum NCL forums are aired on Nantucket Community Television, Channel 18 and may be viewed at your convenience: click <http://www.nantucketcommunitytelevision.org/>, then click "Video on Demand".



Land Bank in his view is not the venue for solving problems such as affordable housing. *Bartlett* said that when the Land Bank has collaborated, the Town has conveyed property to the Land Bank and that there are several examples of such partnering.

Changing the Land Bank mission to include affordable housing: *Glidden* rejected this notion stressing that beachfront/waterfront access should be the priority. *Bartlett* agreed, saying that such a change would be contrary to the purpose of the Land Bank. *Miller* said that the Land Bank exists to acquire open space, and a change in the mission is not an option. She endorses seeking a creative solution to the housing crisis, like what the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank has done.

Acquisition and funding of recreational properties: *Bartlett* said that the commissioners do not consider buying properties for recreation. *Miller* wants the Land Bank to be open and flexible, citing the acquisition of the Girl Scout property as a positive development. *Glidden* noted the scarcity of large, open spaces and the need to improve existing Land Bank properties.

Paying for a new \$15 million Miacomet clubhouse: *Miller* resists obliging the Land Bank to cover this cost and prefers renovation. She favors the golf course remaining open to the public. *Glidden*, too, opposes spending \$15 million and wants the course kept open to the public. A membership dues increase may be needed. *Bartlett* described the current two-tier membership structure and favors higher dues for newer members.

Paying down bond debt: *Glidden* regards dealing with debt as part of the planning process; the debt must be paid even if parcels cannot be purchased. *Bartlett* concurs with continuing to pay the debt even without buying property. *Miller* favors paying down part of debt and timing Land Bank parcel purchases to a soft real estate market.



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**Nantucket is one big neighborhood – and
one small island.**