

TOWN OF NAHANT  
TASC Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2025  
Community Input Meeting

NAHANT TOWN CLERK  
RECD JUL 7 2025 4:09 PM

Members present: Walsh, McCarthy, Tarmy, Steinberg, Antrim, Leonardo, Fields  
Members Absent: Frary, McMackin  
Others Present: R. Tibbo, B. Baranek-Olmstead, Francine Amari, Lisa Scourtas, one unidentified  
Meeting called to order: 7:02 pm

Opening comments: All members of TASC introduced themselves, including a little history of their involvement with the Town.

Walsh explained the purpose of the meeting. Asked speakers to identify themselves and include their address; Shared what the TASC has done to date and the we are hoping for advice/comments from the community at large to assist in finding the right candidate.

Antrim explained the process of accepting applications, interviewing, and forwarding appropriate candidates to the Select Board. Gave some examples of the types of questions that candidates will be expected to answer.

Opened the meeting for public input.

First speaker was Brendan Baranek-Olmstead, 2 Summer Street. He presented the Committee with a two-page printout of questions for prospective candidates. ( See Item #1.)

Second speaker was Francine Amari, 26 James Avenue. Qualifications that she would like to see in the new Town Administrator (TA) are:

- Be well-educated and understands biology – wildlife – coastal environment, possibly with a science background
- Not be part of the 'old-boy network'
- Regardless of political views – all come together over wildlife in danger
- Thinks outside the box
- Doesn't take things personally and hold a grudge
- Doesn't dig in their heels just to say no
- Male or female fine
- Work to get rodenticides out of the community
- Has a good relationship with state fish and wildlife organization
- Suggests the committee 'get candidates to talk about themselves' to 'peel away the onion layers'
- How would candidate handle/navigate contentious situations that divide the town?
  - Northeastern?
  - Coyote population
  - Daily calls and questions

Third speaker was Lisa Scourtas, 100 Spring Road. She echoed some of the sentiments of the first two speakers on coastal sustainability but added that being a realtor includes selling homes that may come with high flood insurance needs.

- She worked on the Flood Committee in the past. Reignite this mission.
- There should be enforcement of the commonwealth rating system, tied to FEMA, to keep insurance costs down
- Next TA should be aware of this and, if not, should educate themselves

Common thread seems to be coastal resilience. Possibility of FEMA not being around is large concern. This committee assured attendees that it will look for candidates with experience with Coastal mitigation/disaster.

Fields stated that some responsibilities fall to the Select Board.

- TA handles day-to-day business.
- There are competing priorities within the town.
- At end of day, there is limited money
- We currently have terrific employees who look for grant opportunities
- We need to look for new avenue of funding

Committee's goal is to find the right candidate who can handle all these tasks and present them to the Select Board.

Thanked community members for coming with their questions.

**Motion by Fields to adjourn, seconded by McCarthy. Unanimous ayes**  
**Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm**

Minutes approved June 30, 2025

Respectfully submitted to Town Clerk on July 1, 2025 by Julie Tarmy via email. *get*

# ①

NAHANT TOWN CLERK  
RECORDED FEB 20 2027

## Questions for Town Administrators search

Background: according to the Nahant Hazard Migration Plan (HMP, 2022) the town experiences an in-land flooding event on an average frequency of 3.3 floods per year, coastal flooding 2-3 events per year, and winter storm/nor'easter 2 events per year. The last major storm requiring FEMA assistance was in 2018 (7 years ago). The new town administrator is likely to experience one (or more) of these events during their contract period. The residents should know what experience and suggested strategies the town administrator candidates have to tackle the these challenges especially when federal disaster recovery assistance and emergency preparedness funding may no longer be available.

### General topics:

#### A. Emergency Preparedness

1. Has candidate experience (or educational background) in Emergency Preparedness?
2. Has the candidate ever been a member of a Emergency Preparedness committee or department?
  - 2a. Please describe their role on a Emergency Preparedness committee/department, what challenges they faced, and how they resolve or address those challenges?
3. Has the candidate reviewed the town HMP to understand the town's challenges?
  - 3a. If yes, does candidate have any suggestions on how to address any of the list of issues the HMP in Table 34 (of Haz. mitigation plan) get
4. Does the candidate have suggestions of how Nahant can financially plan if Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) no longer provided funding vehicles for emergency preparedness?

#### B. Disaster Recovery

1. Has candidate been involved with Disaster Recovery as a municipal employee or contractor?
2. If yes, what role did they have in the Disaster Recovery?
  - 2a. What challenges did the municipality face and how were they addressed?
  - 2b. What impact did Disaster Recovery have on municipal finances?
  - 2c. Did the municipality seek state and/or federal assistance?
  - 2d. Did municipality obtain the requested state/federal assistance in full or partial?
  - 2e. How long did the process take to make the community whole (if possible) after the disaster?
  - 2f. Can candidates share any Lessons Learned from the Disaster Recovery experience?
  - 2g. If candidate could implement 1-2 Lessons Learned (assuming no financial restrictions) what would they be?
3. Does the candidate have suggestions of how Nahant can financially plan if FEMA no longer provided funding vehicles for disaster recovery?

#### C. Climate change resiliency

1. Does candidate accept the consensus of scientific research that climate change is an existential threat to human habitability on Earth?

2. Has candidates ever been on a committee/department that made policy or financial decisions involving climate change resiliency?

2a. If yes, can candidates describe their involvement and length of time served?

2b. Does candidate have any Lesson Learned from their experience?

3. Has candidates ever been on a committee/department implementing climate change resiliency project(s)?

3a. If yes, can candidates describe their involvement and role?

3b. Does candidate have any Lesson Learned from their experience?

D. Experience obtaining funding from state, federal, and NGOs

1. Does the candidate have any experience seeking state, federal, or Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) funding grants, loans, or other financial vehicles for municipal infrastructure projects, capital improvement projects, disaster recovery, emergency preparedness, and/or climate change resiliency?

1a. If yes, can the candidate provide a brief overview of the types of funding requests they were personally involved in?

1b. Did the funding request get approved or not, and what Lessons Learned did the candidate take away from the experience?

2. How would the candidate priorities the town's efforts in seeking grant money?

2a. Would candidate be supportive of a part (or full) time grant writer to support all town departments in seeking grants from state, federal and/or NGOs?

Other topics:

E. Views on deferred maintenance and backlog of infrastructure needs

1. What is candidate view of deferred maintenance and long term town planning?

2. Does candidate have suggestions on how to reduce the town's maintenance backlog?

F. Eminent domain usage in climate change resiliency

Context: In the Hurricane Sandy recovery in NJ and NY state FEMA initially required communities include "retreat" as an mitigation remedy to receive FEMA funds. After push back from communities and local/state/federal representative FEMA dropped the requirement. "Retreat" is the removal of structures and infrastructure from an area that has experiences coastal storm damage and/or flooding to limit future damage and recovery costs.

1. What are candidates views on the use of eminent domain for mitigating climate change impact on flood prone areas?

2. If FEMA were to change policy and make inclusion of "retreat" as a mitigation remedy in order to receive FEMA funding (or other federal assistance), would the candidate accept the requirement or seeking alternatives?

G. How does town retain town employees when surrounding communities pay higher wages?

1. Given the towns revenues come predominantly from residents property taxes, does the candidate have suggestions on how the town can have sustainable competitive wages to prevent high overturn and attract high quality employees?