

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

2019 NGC HOUSE TOUR

Merriellou Symes (standing in for Barb Jones as of mid-June)

Spring, 2019 :

Once it was decided by the HT Co-chairs that buses were needed for the tour, Barb Jones, who was the Transportation Committee Chair, phoned Rick Peterson of Nantucket Island Tours to get a price on two buses from Federal Street to Brant Point.

It was decided that one bus would deliver passengers to 72 Hulbert and one bus would go round trip to the rotary at the intersection of Hulbert and Easton Streets.

It was also decided that we would need a small van to shuttle tour-goers from one end of Hulbert Avenue to the other during the five hours of the tour. Cranberry Transportation was contacted and we were given pricing.

June, 2019:

Christine Dean, tour Co-Chair, was in contact with Rick Peterson about pricing and was told the cost would be @\$3800 for two buses. Subsequently, I took over as Transportation Chair and was briefed by Christine about the pricing. I tried to make a case to Rick that we had

three buses in 2018 and the distance to 'Sconset was, obviously, greater but he informed me that the distance did not really matter – it is the number of buses and drivers. He came down to \$3000. I made one last attempt at asking him to lower the price and he came down to \$2000 for two buses for 5 hours. We were thrilled.

Christine paid a visit to Rick to confirm that we would like to do a “dry-run” of the routes and she and I met him for this in late June.

Rick Peterson could not be nicer. He helped us every way he could and his drivers were polite and friendly. The NIT drivers really know the streets well so leave the routes up to them!

July, 2019:

Christine and I walked the area on Federal Street to see where we could have the location of the buses. After being told we could not have the space we used in 2018 (in front of the store Gypsy) and where it is marked for tour buses, we found an area between the Visitors Center and the Town Bldg. on Federal that is marked “Thirty Minute Parking”. This is across the street heading toward Broad Street. Christine inquired with Libby Gibson’s office and we were told that we needed a permit to use that space but it was definitely possible. Christine acquired the form and ran it around to the four locations where we needed people to “sign-off” on the application for permission to use those spaces. See attached copy of the permit.

I contacted Eve Messing at Cranberry Transportation and gave her my credit card to confirm the van for August 7th. The van was to start at 72 Hulbert and run all day. I emailed her a list of the house addresses. Because I had to be on Federal Street, Christine met the van at 11 am and did one run down Hulbert with the driver.

August, 2019

The day before the tour Christine and Marianna delivered signs and orange cones to me.

DAY OF TOUR:

Signs were provided by the Signs Committee for Federal Street and at the Rotary and 72 Hulbert for the pick-up locations to return to town.

8:00 AM – I put out three orange cones and signs which stood in the hole at the top of the cones.

9:45 AM – I arrived at the location and set up my chair and supplies.

10:15 AM – Tour visitors started to arrive.

10:30 AM – Buses arrive and I taped the 8 1/2 x 11 laminated signs in the windows.

10:30 AM- Visitors began to board the buses. Because we had two buses going to different locations, there was some confusion.

10:30 AM – Our Bus Guides, Mary Malavase and Bob Ford arrived.

10:40 AM – Buses were loaded and left immediately.

All day long from 10:45 to 4:00 pm, the buses made round-trips to and from Brant Point.

Around noon, Bob Ford reported that some of the tour-goers were complaining they could not find the Cranberry Transportation Shuttle that was supposed to be running along Hulbert Ave.

I made a call to Christine Dean and she assured me that the Van was running and all was according to plan.

I greeted people as they boarded the bus by giving them a program and if they had purchased their tickets online, I gave them a ticket when they presented me with their printed receipt or showed me their receipt on their smart phone. Bob and Mary also had programs and tickets to give out to the online purchasers on the bus if I missed someone.

SUGGESTIONS:

Signage needs to be improved. Additional Orange Cones could have been used (at least two more to make five cones).

Our signs were much too small. We need larger – poster size – signs to denote where the buses are going to be leaving and to

Show that we had those spaces reserved for the buses.

Signs of about 24 x 24 or so. They could be attached possibly the same way if they are not too top-heavy. Otherwise, signs on metal stands to be put into the ground by the sidewalk would also be good.

Having good signs would be great.

Do continue to provide sandwiches for the bus drivers (all three).

I also brought sandwiches for the two club representatives who rode the buses all day – Mary and Bob. Both people are perfect for this role and were very popular!

Do use Nantucket Island Tours. They are top-knotch and so pleasant and easy to work with.

AN OVERALL SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SIGNS:

The Chair of the Signs Committee should have the responsibility of contacting every committee chair and have them fill out a form requesting the signs they need – wording and size of sign.

These could be used each year so an investment could be made so that they are nice and would last from year to year.

I watched as this was done at the GCA Annual Meeting in Boston.

Each Committee Chair was sent a form with their sign requests and asked to send it in to the Signs Chair by a certain date so that the appropriate signs could be made. The Signs Chair stationed themselves in a room at the Hotel and the Committee Chair picked up the signs.

IN GENERAL:

This needs to be a two person job. It is very tiring to be on Federal Street all day. We probably should also have had volunteers on the other end at where the buses stopped – not at 72 Hulbert but on the Rotary. I received feedback that it was confusing there.

We gave a tip to each driver of \$50.00 and gave them lunch.

I ordered turkey sandwiches and cookies, chips, and a drink from Something Natural and bagged them for each volunteer and driver.