

# Holden Beach Property Owners Association

## MINUTES

Easter Membership Meeting

April 15, 2017 10:00AM

Holden Beach Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 by the President. A quorum was present.

### **Police Chief Wally Lane gave an update on the Island:**

- The Welcome Sign is back on the causeway with reminders about ordinances.
- The Police Department will be enforcing the rule of no equipment on the beach overnight. An officer will drive the beach each night and pick up any equipment left on the strand and dispose of it.
- The speed limit on OBW past the general store is back to 35MPH.
- Break-ins have slowed but prepare for car break-in season and always lock your vehicle.
- The department has checked that all no parking signs are up and removed the ones that are not legitimate.
- Crosswalks were discussed. The Town doesn't own OBW and cannot repaint the markings or put up crosswalk signs; this is a function of NCDOT.
- Bikes are allowed on Ocean Boulevard even though it can be a traffic concern. This is a state law and it is a state road.
- Contractors parking on the sidewalks is an ongoing issue. The Police Department tries to combat this.

### **Town Manager David Hewett gave an update:**

- The Central Reach Project has greatly widened the strand and people are flocking to our beach. David has concerns about providing service to all the visitors. The last few pieces of pipe are leaving today and the breach should be closed within a few days. Sand fencing and planting are ongoing and should be complete by the middle of June or beginning of July.
- Storm decals have been mailed with the April water bills. Each property will receive only two this year. Contact the Town if you are not receiving a bill.
- The Town has established a paid beach patrol service. Beach Rangers are being hired to serve as code enforcers with ticket writing ability, but the goal is informing people of the rules. They will be focusing on holes on the beach, dogs, dunes and fires on the beach.
- David discussed how they will keep people from trampling the new plantings. They will use a post and rope technique to "herd" people through the sand fences and vegetation. Each public and private walkway will have the posts and ropes. This is considered the third phase of the central reach project.
- Areas outside of the Central Reach also need or want sand fencing and planting. This is a problem for the town because they do not have the easements that were required for Central Reach. The Town can't place sand fence or planting on someone's private property without permission. The Town is asking the owners of property east of the Central Reach to sign permission letters. This is also true for properties west of 800 OBW on a case-by-case basis.
- A question was asked about who funds renourishment projects. The Central Reach project was paid for with \$12,000,000 in special obligation bonds and \$3,000,000 from the BPART fund. The Eastern Reach renourishment was paid by the State, County and Town as part of the ICW dredging and least cost disposal method of dredging the inlet crossing.
- The inlet was discussed. The dredging has historically been covered by the Corps of Engineers, but they no longer have funding. The expense is now falling to local governments.
- A question was asked about the \$6,000,000 in FEMA reimbursements for Matthew. We lost 131,000 cubic yards of sand with the storm. David explained that funds are reimbursed and the process can take a year. As the reimbursements arrive they will be put in the BPART fund and the Commissioners can decide how to spend it. We can be reimbursed for mobilization, testing, engineering as well as the sand.

- For anyone wanting to put sand fencing on their own property you need a permit from the Town. The CAMA officer will indicate where you can place the fence.
- FEMA Flood Maps have still not been finalized. Best guess is now March 2018.
- The Picnic Shelter is now open and awaiting delivery of tables.
- The pump out facility was paid for with a 50/50 split of state and Town funds. Homeowners can use the pump out if they pay the fee.
- Waste Industries will no longer roll trash bins from the holders for pick up. Trash cans should be rolled to the easement on Tuesday mornings. If you are not in town you need to arrange to have this done.
- Regarding why recycling was not included in the Waste Industries contract, the Town wanted a year's data to make a decision.
- The new Beach Rangers program will be starting dry runs on May 20 and operate for the 100 days of summer. The Police will now focus on parking. This program will be paid for from occupancy taxes.

### **Mayor Alan Holden gave an update on the Island.**

- Mayor Holden discussed Flood Insurance. He feels they are not incented to reduce rates for people on the coast and would not be surprised to see the March 2018 date slip.
- The Lockwood Folly inlet is dangerous, especially at low tide. Do not use it. The inlet changed when the ICW was dug in 1932. The Corps agreed to always maintain the inlet when the tonnage from the Lockwood Folly was used to justify the jetty at Little River. They have now abandoned that agreement. Questions have come up on whether the Town should pay to dredge the inlet. We pay our Town taxes to take care of areas within the Town, and the inlet is not part of the Town. Perhaps if the state gets involved. In response to a question about the cost to dredge, Mayor Holden explained that one dredge is broken and the other is very expensive. At this point there is no federal money involved. The only dredging they are working on is the crossing along the waterway – not the throat to the Atlantic.
- He encouraged everyone to check the decks and walkways for rusty hardware. There is a new setback line for walkways that is being digitized.
- The splash pad at the park has been delayed, but the basketball court is getting a lot of use.
- The island is looking great. People are painting and sprucing up their homes.
- Spray for sand spurs. The Town will be spraying their easements.
- Ocean Blvd. is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2019. NCDOT has only approved two crosswalks, and all crossing signs must be approved by the state.
- Golf Carts must be street legal with plates, and the driver must be licensed. However, the Police are not enforcing this.
- Concerts at the Coast will start Memorial Day weekend. Dogs can't be on the strand from 9-5 beginning May 20.
- He encouraged homeowners to install sand fencing and fertilize.
- He encouraged people to consider running for Commissioner during this year's elections.
- Construction is up, there are 30 homes under construction.
- Regarding the inlet dredging, Mayor Holden feels a groin would help but not fix the problem.

### **Business Meeting**

The minutes from the Labor Day meeting were approved as presented.

### **Reports**

President Tom Myers introduced Jody Westfall as a new Board member. Jody will be taking over for Larry Blume. We will have a booth at Days at the Docks and encourage members to stop by. There will be a newsletter out prior to the Memorial Day meeting and we will be doing a survey again this fall.

Flood Maps were discussed. The plan for new maps was first presented in August 2014 and they are now anticipated for January or March 2018. HBPOA continues to push for the maps to be approved. Letters that can be edited are on the website and members are encouraged to send them to their congressmen. HBPOA contacted Congressman Rouzer and we have been in contact with his staff. Approximately 92% of island homeowners will see a reduction in their premiums. Currently 1328 properties are in VE zones, 1225 of those will go to AE zones with the new maps resulting thousands of dollars of savings every year.

Larry Blume gave the financial report. The annual membership drive is on going and our balance is \$59,387.75. We currently have 833 members. The newsletter will have your membership status near your address.

Marlene Barz reported for the Communications Committee. We have had over 40,000 views of the website not including our YouTube page. The website is updated regularly, especially the "Hot Topics" pages. Our Facebook presence continues to grow. Members should let us know if they are not receiving email.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Dolly Mitchell complimented the Town on the good job they are doing. She likes that HBPOA emails the link to the audio of the Commissioners' meetings and encourages everyone to listen. She also liked the HBPOA's drone videos.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Y. Myers  
Volunteer Secretary