

# **Holden Beach Property Owners Association**

## **MINUTES**

**Easter Membership Meeting**

**May 23, 2015 10:00AM**

**Holden Beach Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 by the President. The meeting was opened by acknowledging Veterans in attendance. There were 49 voting members present, constituting a quorum.

Officer Jeremy Dixon reported in Chief Lane's place. He reminded everyone that the summer dog hours are in effect. No dogs on the beach strand between 9-5 and always on a leash at other times. They usually issue a warning first. For any general police questions call 910-842-6707. If you need an officer for anything or have an emergency call 911, even for non-emergency calls. Our 911 system will not be overburdened and it helps them keep a record of calls. Golf carts are treated just like other motor vehicles and must be licensed, have seat belts, etc. and the driver must be 16 and have a valid drivers license. He reminded everyone to share the sidewalks with bikers, joggers and pedestrians. Give plenty of clearance to bikers on the road.

He addressed the crime report that appeared in the *Brunswick Beacon*. On March 31 there was a wave of TV thefts that started at 207 OBW and went door-to-door to 289 OBW. There are two to three suspects. Ocean Isle and Sunset Beach were also hit that week by the same group. It is under investigation. The reported rape and aggravated assault are under investigation and are domestic crimes, the victims know the suspects. Towing and ticketing for parking is happening based on the new ordinance. There is no parking on OBW. On side streets you need to be at least 125 feet from the centerline and have all four wheels off the asphalt. He encouraged everyone to record the serial numbers of their property.

Mayor Alan Holden gave an update. There is an escarpment line from Ferry Road west down the beach from Tropical Storm Ana. The pier area and 500 block were especially hard hit. The west end has a 9' escarpment. The Town will not be fixing the escarpment – homeowners need to take care of it. He said there is a possibility of getting some sand for the 500 block. If people are on the dunes call the police.

New emergency accesses to the beach strand are now available at the west side of the campground and at 567 OBW across from the fire station. The fight continues about the property at 109 OBW. They are waiting for the judge to sign the papers, possibly in June, then the building can be torn down. There has not been much progress on removing the shrimp boat and decaying fish house across the waterway. The County has offered to share the cost with the Town but it is not in the budget. The Summer Concerts start this weekend with the Imitations playing. There will be a Taxes and Budget workshop on Tuesday. There should be little change in the tax rate. Flood insurance from NFIP is now charging non-residents an additional \$250 surcharge. You can complain by calling 1800-546-5664. There will be an increased police presence on NC211 between Supply and Southport this weekend, drive safely! In other topics, the fishing is good, home sales are strong though prices are not rising, rentals and construction remain strong.

Town Manager David Hewett had nothing more to add.

## **Business**

The minutes of the Easter meeting were approved as presented.

President Tom Myers announced that A Second Helping will be starting their 11<sup>th</sup> year of collecting food for the needy on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The program will run through Labor Day. He announced that a Nominating Committee had been formed and encouraged members to serve on the Board. He also encouraged members to check the website, HoldenBeachPOA.com, for news and updates.

Gina Martin, Membership Co-Chair, reported that we have 519 members. The Committee will be sending second notices to members whose dues are not current. HBPOA is a Gold sponsor for the Concerts and will be selling concessions each week.

John Fletcher presented the Treasurer's Report. There is a dues shortfall and HBPOA is looking for new members. There is \$32,000 in savings.

Communications Chair Marlene Hahn reminded everyone that the HBPOA website is HoldenBeachPOA.com and reported that we had a huge response to the Tropical Storm Ana post. Our Facebook page continues to grow. If you need to change your email or would like to add an email to the distribution list please let us know by sending an email to [HBPOA@hotmail.com](mailto:HBPOA@hotmail.com). The Committee is planning a newsletter and survey on current issues.

Liaison Co-Chair Dolly Mitchell reported that the committee is continuing to send the agendas for the Commissioners' Meetings and a follow up email with a synopsis of actions taken at the meeting. She thanked Officer Dixon, Mayor Holden and Town Manager Hewett for spending part of their holiday weekends with us. She also thanked the members who sent in information and photos of Tropical Storm Ana.

In Old Business, John Witten described what the HB West II Homeowners Association had done to control the mega/event house on the west end. They changed their covenants to address the parking, noise and other issues and will now limit construction to eight bedrooms and 10 baths. A copy of their new covenants will be placed on the HBPOA website for anyone interested to read. They are enforcing the covenants with fines. It was pointed out that this only protects the far western tip of the island behind the gate, not the rest of the island.

John Fletcher read member Burton Hall's letter which was read at a Commissioners' meeting regarding Event houses and the concern that all the neighboring islands had put restrictions in place to protect property owners except for Holden Beach. Commissioner Harrington reported that when the issue was discussed at the Commissioners' meeting he made a motion to put a moratorium on these large houses, but Commissioners Martin, Kyser and Miller voted it down. He discussed that he needed more votes to get something through the Board of Commissioners and Commissioner Sheila Young agreed. There was confusion over whether the issue of a moratorium could be voted on by the Commissioners without proper notice. There was a motion to bring up the issue properly to the Board of Commissioners with proper notice on the agenda. The motion was seconded. In discussion, it was pointed out that as it stands the issue is now dead. Voters need clarity on where each of the

Commissioners stand on the issue prior to the fall elections. The motion was amended to ask for a moratorium to limit houses greater than 5000 square feet or eight bedrooms. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The issue of the County's noise ordinance was raised. A motion was made to recommend that the Town adopt ordinances consistent with those on the West end regarding noise. The motion was seconded. It was pointed out that parking issues are covered under the new parking ordinance. The motion passed unanimously with three abstentions.

Member Alice Polo reminded everyone that the Town Library is on the second floor and encouraged everyone to visit it and leave a note for their renters about it. Books are free if you donate one or return it when finished.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Y. Myers  
Volunteer Secretary