

Holden Beach Property Owners Association

MINUTES

Memorial Day Membership Meeting

May 27, 2017 10:00AM

Holden Beach Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 by the President. A quorum was present.

Mayor Alan Holden gave an update on the Island.

- The first concert of the season is Sunday evening under the bridge.
- The crowds this year have been extremely large. Sales, construction and rentals are all up.
- Break-ins have started. This activity is drug related. Keep cars locked.
- Parking has become an issue. People want more parking and/or paid parking and the issue is being sent to P&Z. The Town Manager has been asked to look into paid parking but Alan has never heard of a town that made money on parking. There are many more people coming to the beach for the day than there used to be. The Town will need to do something. A possible concern is that CAMA looks at the amount of public parking when making grants.
- The comments on the beach strand have been very complimentary. The sand fencing is working and dunes are building.
- The Lockwood Folly inlet is still dangerous. A side-caster dredge will be here in the next few weeks to do some work but it won't be effective. If your boat draws more than 2' of water go to Little River or Southport. The Corps is required to keep the Lockwood Folly inlet open, but not the Shallotte inlet.
- The park is seeing lots of use from guests and day-trippers. Alan addressed a request from a property owner that screening be added between the basketball court and the condos due to noise and lights. He will pass that on to the Town Manager.
- The water tower has been refilled and painting will resume in the fall. The Town's water system is in good shape, but there is a need for a second water tower.
- The sewer system deficiencies are still being addressed. There is money in the proposed budget to begin work. In response to a question about why the issues were not addressed when it was initially constructed, Alan said it was built to code at the time.
- The Town has started the Beach Ranger program. The four new Rangers are using pickups this weekend because the rented ATVs were not in good condition. The Rangers will be informing guests about holes on the beach, dogs on the beach, cabanas left overnight, etc. If cabanas or other items are spotted in the dunes tell a Ranger or contact the Town.
- Ocean Blvd. is still scheduled to be resurfaced in 2019 by the state. More funds will be needed to repave the Town's streets.
- It is budget season and the proposed budget leaves the tax rate the same for the Town. The County is also not proposing any new taxes.
- The Emergency Committee that activates when a storm threatens will be meeting next week.
- There was a speaker at the last Commissioners' meeting who addressed the opioid crisis in Brunswick County. Wilmington is #1 in the nation and some of this spills into our County. Our Police Department is on top of it and is working with the County to address the issue.
- In response to a question about the Mega-House issue, Alan feels the demand for these venues has waned and the numbers will not work financially. However, he did have a question about size restrictions last week. These homes used as event venues are not considered commercial. He described the commercially zoned areas on the island.
- Flood Maps are still pending. Alan thinks they will not be effective until 2018 and possibly not then. He speculates that there is not an urgency to cut premiums when the system is incurring major losses.

Business Meeting

The minutes from the Easter meeting were approved as presented.

Reports

President Tom Myers reported that the newsletter was sent; let him know if it was not received. A nominating committee was formed and will be chaired by Mike Sullivan.

Marlene Barz gave the Financial Report. The organization is in good shape with a balance of \$60,321.29 and 909 members. We are still working with the Town on spending the Playground money

Old Business

None

New Business

Parking: Parking is an issue. Member Joe Butler gave a presentation on some of the parking issues he is facing. He has a home at East Brunswick and Ferry Rd. and installed a post and plastic chain system to keep day-trippers from parking on his lawn and breaking sprinkler heads. He has suffered verbal abuse from people parking and they leave trash behind. Joe reviewed the street right of way ordinances prior to installing the fence and there is no mention of parking, only utility installation or repair. Police officers visited Joe and insisted that the fence needed to be removed and threatened fines and jail time if he did not comply. The Commissioners are aware of the issue and another property owner brought complaints to the last Board of Commissioners' Meeting.

Joe made a motion that "Before the issue of day visitors parking on improved properties throughout the island that gets out of control, I make a motion that this association send a letter to the Town Commissioners requesting their help to prevent day visitors from parking on improved properties. I also recommend that if the town needs to communicate with a property owner regarding a right of way issue this should be communicated by letter instead of sending police officers to inform the home owner." The motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion was amended to remove "day visitors". This was seconded and passed unanimously. The intent is not to restrict what property owners can do with their own property, but to not allow day-trippers to park on their property.

Trash Cans: The Town's garbage collector will no longer remove trashcans from racks for emptying. This is resulting in cans not being emptied. A motion was made that the HBPOA tell the Town to explore ways to be sure that garbage cans be rolled back in time for pick up. The motion was restated to tell the Town to study the issue and make sure it is resolved during rental season. There was no second. Suggestions were made to make sure pick up times are in the rental contract. At least one rental agency (Hobbs) will start taking care of the roll out for owners.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Y. Myers
Volunteer Secretary