

Holden Beach Property Owners Association

MINUTES

Labor Day Membership Meeting

September 3, 2016 10:00AM

Holden Beach Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 by the Vice President. A quorum was present.

Police Chief Wally Layne gave an update from the Police Department. It was a busy summer, but there were no major incidents. The electronic sign on the causeway has helped reduce the number of ordinance violations. All the remaining turtle nests survived the storm. Wally answered questions from the floor. The Town can't put signs for cars to stop for pedestrians on OBW because the road belongs to NCDOT, not Holden Beach. Instead of changing the electronic sign to state when dogs are allowed, he likes the "No, No, No" approach because it is working. A stolen "Children at Play" sign can be replaced by contacting Public Works. Crime seems to be down this year compared to past years.

Town Manager David Hewett gave an update. The recycling center by the water tower is being eliminated due to abuse. Recycling is still available via rollout containers or at the Oxpen Rd. facility. The solid waste contract will be renegotiated this fall. There has been a lot of action on the Central Reach project. The interlocal agreement with Brunswick County has been approved and signed, the application to the Local Government Committee was submitted September 1st, he has 359 recordable easements, which were recorded this week, and there are 83 pending easements. The Town Attorney says we are in a good position. The second round of bids yielded an apparent low bid, which was under the \$15M budget. The Municipal Service District was formed. The Commissioners are adamant that the MSD will not be used for taxing purposes and the bonds will be paid for with an island wide tax. The Town's budget was passed and taxes were raised to \$0.22/\$100. The last agency that needed to weigh in on the Terminal Groin has submitted their report and the Corps of Engineers are ready to issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement. David answered questions from the floor. The canals are not being dredged this year, they are in good shape. Regarding infrastructure, the Commissioners are getting a second opinion on the sewer vulnerabilities, Jordan Blvd., Pointe West and Tide Ridge are on schedule to be repaved, Brunswick Ave. West is not on the schedule because it needs reconstruction. The \$15M Central Reach Project will be funded with \$11.5M in special obligation bonds, \$3M from the BPART account, and \$0.5M from FEMA Irene funds. Regarding the Nies case, he doesn't see how the Nies could prevail. Emerald Isle has a driving lane and the Nies want exclusivity. Phase 1 of the park is complete. The dock is open along with the multipurpose court and restrooms. The shade structures have been added to the playground. A grand opening will be scheduled soon. The second phase, including a picnic shelter, kayak launches and splash pad should be completed before next Memorial Day. The landscaping project on the mainland side of the bridge is still progressing, but he added that the Town can't take it over for one year. For the Terminal Groin, permits are still needed as well as funding. The groin structure will cost \$2M and adding the sand will take the cost to \$2.8M total. Wind turbines are not on his radar.

Mayor Alan Holden stated that damage from the storm was minimal. Damage to roofs and windows will show up later. The Fishing Pier and some lots near the bridge have been offered to the Town for sale. The Commissioners have so far chosen not to do anything. While it is an ongoing issue he doesn't expect anything to happen because there is only so much money. Flood Maps are still expected to be updated. The drop-dead date is January 20. Most property owners will see a decrease in insurance rates. Sales, construction and rentals are doing well. There were no questions.

Bill Spier thanked everyone for supporting Second Helping. They are finishing up their 12th year and it looks like a record amount has been collected this year.

Business Meeting

The minutes from the Easter and Memorial Day meetings were approved as presented.

Vice President Rick Smith reported that there is a newsletter coming out this month. The HBPOA will be represented at the Festival By the Sea and the Member Appreciation breakfast will again be at the Chapel the Saturday morning of the Festival. Membership continues to increase.

Old Business

The membership allocated \$2500 at the Memorial Day meeting for a retainer to hire an attorney to review the Central Reach easements. After the review, the attorney facilitated a new less restrictive easement which was mailed to property owners. The final bill came in and the balance is \$3200. A motion was made and seconded to approve the payment. The motion carried unanimously.

HBPOA will be hosting another information session on the Terminal Groin after the Final Environmental Impact Statement is released.

HBPOA is looking at some needed bylaw revisions and at using online voting. Expect to hear more at the Thanksgiving meeting.

New Business

Member Dolly Mitchell complimented the Association on the information that is being sent out. She finds the links to more information and the audio of the Commissioners' meeting especially helpful. She also encouraged everyone to sign up for the Town's emails and encouraged everyone to stay informed on issues.

The slate of candidates for the Board of Directors was presented. Current Directors Tom Myers, Rick Smith and Sally Caldwell agreed to serve another term. There is one vacancy. Alma Hoffmann was nominated from the floor and agreed to serve. Ballots were completed and submitted, all four nominees were elected.

Mike Sullivan reviewed the Financial Report. As a result of the mailings we have had a huge increase in membership, which is shown in the checking account.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Y. Myers
Volunteer Secretary