

Holden Beach Property Owners Association

MINUTES

Labor Day Membership Meeting

September 5, 2015 10:00AM

Holden Beach Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 by the President.

Member Bill Spier reported that A Second Helping was completing its 11th year. Donations so far are in line with other recent years with over 15,000 lbs of food donated so far. Donations of perishable and nonperishable food are accepted as well as cash. The program has spread to other beaches including Emerald Isle, Topsail Beach and Laurel, Maryland.

Police Chief Wally Layne reported on the crime this summer. It was a good summer with no major incidents. There was a rash of break-ins of unlocked cars. Four groups of thieves have been arrested and the activity has died off. Always lock your car and don't leave valuables. House break-in season is coming with thieves looking for flat screens. He reminded everyone that it is still hurricane season and to have a plan, and encouraged everyone to join the evacuation team if interested.

Mayor Alan Holden gave an update. The new dredge, the Murden, is working the inlet and depositing sand in shallow water on the east end. The Imitations are playing Sunday at 6:30 at the Pavilion and will wrap up the summer concert season. Town elections are coming up. John Fletcher, Peter Freer, Ashley Royal and Kim Isenhour are on the ballot along with incumbents Sandy Miller, Ken Kyser, and Gina Martin. He reminded everyone that the Town's limits stop in the middle of the bridge, except for the new Beautification Club project on the mainland side of the bridge. Home sales are up, though prices are not. Rentals were better this year than last and construction is up. Mayor Holden reminded everyone that if there is a mandatory evacuation it will be mandatory. The sewer system will be shut down along with the water system. A boat has been donated to the Chapel and they are taking bids on it. It is an orange 1972 MFG with a 65HP motor. There is still nothing happening on the sinking shrimp boat.

Business

There were 66 members present constituting a quorum. The minutes of the Memorial Day meeting were approved as presented.

President Tom Myers announced that Sally Caldwell was appointed to replace Becky Greene. He thanked members Dolly Mitchell, Peggy Schiavone and Jerry Todd whose terms as Directors were ending. The Board of Commissioners will be addressing the concerns of the HBPOA at their meeting on Tuesday. These include mega-houses and a new noise ordinance.

A photo of what the proposed wind farms off Holden Beach would look like was circulated. Dwight Willis discussed seismic testing and oil and gas exploration. He is asking the County Commissioners to reconsider supporting it. Our County Representative Marty Cooke has been leading the effort in support of oil and gas development.

HBPOA will again be hosting Meet the Candidates Night. The event will be October 23rd.

Gina Martin, Membership Co-Chair, reported that we have 587 members. The Concerts were successful. HBPOA was a sponsor and also sold concessions and tee shirts. Due to time conflicts, Gina resigned her position on the Board effective at the end of the Board meeting.

John Fletcher presented the Treasurer's Report for Cyndi Kiernan. There is a dues shortfall because of budgeting of prepaid members and lower membership numbers. He expects many members to renew before the end of the year. We are still holding the remaining \$6000 for the playground to be spent when the Town is ready and have \$35,000 in savings.

Communications Chair Marlene Hahn reported that 2500 newsletters with survey invitations were mailed to all property owners at their tax address. While responses continue to come in, comments have been very positive and people appreciate being asked their opinion. Website traffic continues to increase; we saw a new record of 3180 page views in the last ten days and received very positive comments about the website in the survey comments. We are testing a "poll" question on the Wind Farm page. Facebook also continues to grow. We reached 5,437 people last week.

Liaison Co-Chair Dolly Mitchell reported that the bridge will be closed from 7:00am till 7:30am next Saturday for a 5K run. The Board of Commissioners meet on Tuesday. On September 24 there will be a meeting on the proposed Terminal Groin. Beach Sweep will be October 9, 8:30am – 4:40pm. October 10 will be the 5K Turtle Run. Meet the Candidates Night will be October 23. Festival By the Sea will be held October 24-25. A new event, Boo at the Beach will be October 30. She reminded everyone to sign up for the Town's emails by contacting Heather@hbtownhall.com.

In Old Business, a letter was sent to the Commissioners regarding the noise ordinance and the mega-house issue.

In new business, President Tom Myers reviewed the survey results. They will be posted to the HBPOA website. Nominating Committee Chair John Fletcher introduced the slate of candidates for the Board: returning member Marlene Hahn, and Peter Freer, Ashley Royal, and John Witten. The question was raised about having Commissioners on the HBPOA Board. John Fletcher stated he will resign if elected. Nominations from the floor were called for. A motion was made that nominations be closed, which was seconded and passed unanimously. The slate of candidates was elected.

Member Dwight Willis made a motion to have HBPOA support the resolution opposing seismic testing and oil and gas exploration. The motion was seconded and carried with three abstentions.

David Wilson nominated Dwight Willis to fill the vacancy on the HBPOA Board. Dwight declined the nomination.

Member Dennis Harrington asked everyone to attend the meeting on the Terminal Groin. The proposed wind farms were discussed. A motion was made for the Board to adopt a policy opposing the proposed location of the wind farms to be located off of Holden Beach. The motion was seconded. The motion was amended to oppose a location less than 30 miles off the coast. The motion carried with one opposed.

John Fletcher made a motion to donate \$5000, as follows: a \$500 contribution to the Holden Beach Beautification Club, a \$500 contribution to the Holden Beach Turtle Patrol to be donated to the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital, and the purchase of three AEDs: two for the police department and one for the chapel. The motion was seconded. During discussion John clarified that the motion was from him as a member, not the HBPOA Board. The motion carried with one opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Y. Myers
Volunteer Secretary