

Minutes of the Salisbury Beach Betterment Association Annual Meeting of August 23, 2021 at Blue Ocean Event Center

Board of Directors Attending: Lou Masiello, Ron Guilmette, Maribeth Timony, John Housianitis, Al Peterson, Donna Champagne, Ray Champagne, Derek DePetrillo, Bill Greilich

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Bill Greilich who welcomed all to the meeting. He led all in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

He asked for all to observe a moment of silence in memory of late Board member Michael Spero. Following the introduction of invited guests, he thanked Wayne Capolupo for hosting the event, Amin Nabhan for allowing members to park in his parking lot and SCTV's Lance Wisniewski and Chris Donnellan for covering the event live and for rebroadcast. He introduced the Board of Directors and thanked them for their service to the SBBA. He announced the formation of 2 new subcommittees: Membership and Marketing.

He reviewed the mission statement of the SBBA which has been established to enhance and protect the quality of life at Salisbury Beach. He reviewed our activities which include the scholarships awarded to high school seniors, the flowers planted and cared for at the entrances to Salisbury beach, maintenance of the triangle in the south end, donations made to the Salisbury Beach Partnership, the 60 flags installed by member Peter Benoit, the 7 crosswalk signs donated to the town, the ongoing renovation of the Hope Chapel Bell, donations to the mural sponsored by the Salisbury Cultural Council and the placement of memorial benches at beach access points.

Nominating Committee chairman Derek DePetrillo put forward the following for election by the membership:

President Bill Greilich, Secretary John Housianitis, Treasurer Don Egan, South End representative Derek DePetrillo, North End representatives Lou Masiello, Al Peterson, Donna Champagne, At Large representatives Ray Champagne, Ron Guilmette, Maribeth Timony and Department of Conservation and Recreation representative Mike Magnifico. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 SBBA Annual Meeting which were distributed at the meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report prepared by treasurer Don Egan was presented by Ron Guilmette. The expenditures from the previous year and the projected budget for this year were distributed at the meeting and a motion was made and seconded to approve the budget and it passed unanimously.

President Greilich introduced State Senior Diana DiZoglio who thanked Bill and the SBBA Board for their tremendous advocacy on behalf of Salisbury residents. She also thanked the local officials for their support. She encouraged residents to contact her as issues arise. She commended the Board for being tireless in efforts regarding erosion issues at the beach and in trying to get information from the state regarding the Preservation Trust Fund created from funds from cars that enter the state reservation. She stated that the state has made it difficult to get information about the status of the Trust Fund. She said that legislators teamed up with the SBBA Board and local officials in challenging the administration, DCR and DEP to get access to the monies needed to replace sand at the beach.

She and State Representative Jim Kelcourse have filed legislation that would update the Trust Fund language to insure proper expenditures. She hopes to get the bill to the governor's desk by the end of the session. She announced that she is running for State Auditor and said that she will be looking to audit DCR and DEP and work on why it is so difficult to get information and resources back to the community.

President Greilich introduced State Representative Jim Kelcourse who thanked Bill and the SBBA Board for their efforts and for ideas about sand harvesting at low tide and other ways to preserve and protect Salisbury beach. He thanked Wayne Capolupo and his family for their vision and commitment to Salisbury beach. He thanked Bill and the SBBA Board for helping to receive \$90,000 to help protect

homes with additional sand. He thanked the citizens of Salisbury for the opportunity to serve as their representative.

President Greilich introduced Town Manager Neil Harrington who thanked the legislative delegation and selectmen for all of their efforts on behalf of the town.

On the welcome center which is under construction, he stated that residents will be pleased with the end result. There will be year-round rest rooms which will be fully staffed. 2 state grants have helped to fund the upgrade of Driftway which is 95% completed except for the final coat of paving. This project involves the installation of historic lighting and the burying of all utilities underground. On sand dredging, he stated that this fall and winter the town will work with the Army Corps of Engineers as they dredge the Merrimack River and the Piscataqua River. The goal is for 150,000 cubic yards of sand to be deposited near shore to help build up the beach sand. The state will pay for 75% of the project and the town will pay 25% or \$200,000. He said the town is working to reestablish better relations with DCR to ensure that monies keep flowing and that when monies are available for projects that Salisbury gets a fair share. He stated that the state is receiving \$5 billion from the federal government and that the town will lobby officials to help fight climate change and assist in coastal resiliency. He also thanked SBBA Board member Ron Guilmette for his service on the town's warrant advisory committee as he is not reapplying for a seat this year.

President Greilich introduced Board of Selectmen Chair Wilma McDonald who stated that she is a beach resident and growing up in Lawrence she was a regular beach visitor. She spoke of Salisbury's reasonable tax rate and extensive natural resources such as the beach and salt marsh. She thanked the Town Manager and legislative delegation for their service. She invited all to Salisbury Days which will be held of September 18 and 19.

President Greilich introduced Police Chief Tom Fowler who stated that this is his 9th year attending the SBBA Annual Meeting as it is also the anniversary of him signing his first contract 9 years ago at that meeting. He stated that parking and traffic are always issues at the beach and that newly installed speed bumps have received mixed reviews. He stated that illegal fireworks set off at the beach appears to be reduced this year. If residents hear them he asked that calls be made to the station to report them. He thanked the SBBA Board and Ron Guilmette for the 7 crosswalk signs that were donated to the town. With the pandemic, he stated that this past year has been a most challenging year and thanked the members of the police department for their work. He stated that body worn cameras will be deployed soon to officers.

President Greilich reviewed the accomplishments of the SBBA and stated that this year a record 19 scholarships will be awarded at tonight's meeting.

He stated that new Beautification Committee chair Maribeth Timony has replaced long time chair Edna Marggraf who he thanked for her service. He announced that there will be 4 beach cleanups this year and that the welcome signs on Beach Road and at 286 have been maintained. He mentioned the 7 crosswalk signs that have been donated to the town. He said that Ray Champagne is leading the efforts to restore the Hope Chapel Bell which will hopefully be placed at the beach center. The SBBA continues to fund the holiday lights on Beach Road and the 60 flags put up by Peter Benoit. He stated that 9 memorial benches have been installed and that 5 more have been requested for placement at beach access points. Cigarette butlers have been replaced around the beach.

The SBBA has received \$1,000 from the Salisbury Cultural Council towards the restoration of the Hope Chapel Bell. He is delighted that the Piscataqua sand dredging will take place with 75% being paid for by the federal government and 25% being paid by the state and local government. The deadline for bids was last week.

The dredging is scheduled to begin in October and will hopefully be done by next March. He stated that the SBBA has advocated at the Merrimack Valley Beach Alliance meetings led by Senator Bruce Tarr that additional sand should be deposited further north.

He announced that at the urging of the SBBA, the Salisbury Beach Resiliency Task Force has been reinstated. Unfortunately, DCR is no longer involved. He said that we need DCR to be involved as a partner. We must work cooperatively to prevent disasters in the future he said. "Sand harvesting" is one way to address this issue. He said that UNH professor Greg Moore of the Coastal Habitat Restoration

Project had some of his students help plant beach grass in the dunes. He stated that the DCR Regional Sediment Project led by John Ramsey concluded that Salisbury beach needs a 15-foot berm that goes 2 miles at a cost of \$4,000,000. This was recommended by DCR in the study.

Wayne Capolupo was recognized to speak and he said that he had grave reservations about sand from the Piscataqua River being used as it is not the same quality of beach sand that we have here. He urged that we should make sure that the sand is dumped far enough off shore. He concluded by thanking the SBBA for doing all that the group does.

Maribeth Timony gave the Membership Committee report and stated that as a result of a membership campaign 160 new members have joined the SBBA. We currently have 685 members.

Maribeth Timony gave the Beautification Committee report and stated that the committee has been busy with flower plantings, upkeep of the triangle in the south end, the installation of the flags, 4 beach cleanups and the holiday lights. The annual home tour fundraiser has been cancelled due to Covid concerns. She thanked all of the members of the Beautification Committee for their efforts.

Derek DePetrillo gave the Marketing Committee report and stated that the SBBA has an Instagram page, Facebook page and an updated website that members should visit. He also said that SBBA t-shirts are also on sale this evening.

Donna Champagne gave the Scholarship Committee report and announced that tickets are available this evening for the Motown fundraiser at the Blue Ocean Event Center on September 10. She reported that the SBBA has awarded 250 scholarships to high school seniors since 1991. She thanked the committee for all of their efforts. She announced that 19 scholarships will be awarded tonight and that she and the committee are amazed at the achievements of the students receiving the awards. The 19 scholarships were then awarded. Donna announced that long time committee member Jane Keenan would be retiring from the committee and in recognition of her service a plaque was awarded to Jane and she was thanked for her service.

Following the awarding of the Beautification Committee and the Scholarship Committee raffles, a member raised an issue under Member Comments and Concerns concerning sewerage being dumped into the Merrimack River and that the SBBA should work to help solve the problem. President Greulich assured the member that the SBBA will work with our legislative delegation on the issue.

With no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and it passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Housianitis
Secretary