

Priscilla Beach Association

**Opening Meeting
Saturday June 27, 2015**

Present: Association Officers and member head count of 32 (quorum)

Officers: President: John Reardon
Vice President: Jeff Arcuri
Treasurer: Paul Champagne
Assistant Treasurer: John Reardon
Secretary: Virginia Curcio

Additional Board Members: Tim Bennett, Patty Schneider, Judy Roy

Absent: Bob Malone

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by the President, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Reading of the Minutes

The Secretary read an abbreviated summary of the minutes from the Closing Meeting, August 30, 2014.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Paul Champagne noted that dues payments are down by approximately \$5,000.00 which represents a 7%-8% decrease from years with higher payments. This deficit will have a detrimental effect on a number of things proposed in the budget, such as clubhouse repairs. To date, \$17,000 in dues has been collected; the two prior years, \$22,400 and \$22,800 was collected.

Paul also noted that dues payment is scheduled for January. A change from a fiscal year to a calendar year was instituted approximate 8-10 years ago, yet members still continue to pay over the summer versus January.

Discussion followed and the following was noted:

- Not all members read their emails. Not all members respond to the dues notices.
- Summer residents have not arrived yet due to the late school closing caused by winter storms and school cancellations.
- The Association has no legal recourse to enforce payment of dues; dues payment is voluntary.
- Previous years a non-payment list was posted.
- The possibility of restructuring in order to have enforcement power for dues would require unanimous consent of neighborhood residents.
- The Association has the responsibility of stewardship to take of the property, including the beach. Dues are needed to cover fixed costs of stewardship: taxes, insurance, which represent 60% of budgetary expense or the approximate sum of over \$16,000.
- In order to receive a special rate, the Association needs to have 5 contiguous acres which it does not have.

Priscilla Beach Association

Opening Meeting Saturday June 27, 2015

Suggestions were offered to provide impetus for dues payment that included:

- Laminate posters to be placed at the beach that address the issue:
 - Loss of private beach to the town
 - 60% of dues go to maintaining the private status of the beach
 - Do you want to lose your private beach?
- Ginny volunteered to write a letter for existing members to explain the issue in the hope of prompting members to pay. Members volunteered to go by street and visit non-paying members with the letter. It was suggested that they go in pairs.
- Request email updates. At this point Bob Malone reassured members that even though emails go out as a Blast Emails to all listed members, the privacy of each member is assured since emails go out as a blind courtesy copy where members receive an email directed to them with no other names/email addresses listed.
- Make sure the only dues paying members attend the adult events, and add this to the flyers for the events.
 - This brought up concerns ensuring that members pay attention to the cut off dates; and that reservations do not exceed the maximum allowed person count for the building: 140 persons.

A motion was made to enhance the sign at the beach entrance and to write the letter to non-paying members. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. **President's Report:**

- a. Building repairs/maintenance work has been approved by the Board; work has not yet begun.
- b. Application was filed for 2 bonfire permits for July 3rd. There is no response yet.

4. **Buoy Committee:**

- a. The Chairman not in attendance. The President noted that the buoys need to be taken out of the shed, strung out on the basketball court and checked for any needed repairs. John Reardon will check on this. Buoys will go out after the bonfire/fireworks on Sunday July 5th at low tide 8:45AM.
- b. Boardwalks:
Help is also needed with the boardwalks. The boardwalks will also go out after the bonfire on July 5th. Ronnie Cedrone volunteered to help out.

Discussion: Donna Natale raised the question/concerns about rumored fireworks ignited from a barge located off the beach on July 5th as part of birthday celebration of one of the Oceanside residents. Concerns included:

- Should buoys go out; in case of fire? Response: it was noted that the town would not give permit for firecrackers. If fired from a barge, no one has rights to the ocean.
- Shouldn't the town should ensure our safety. This will bring in crowds, with the associated problems of traffic, noise, lewd behaviors, etc. Response: If someone asks for a permit from the town, then it is the town's responsibility to ensure safety. We shouldn't have to question it; we have to trust in town that they

Priscilla Beach Association

Opening Meeting Saturday June 27, 2015

have taken in all safety consideration. In terms of someone having a party, it becomes the personal responsibility to speak neighbor to neighbor. There is no difference between fireworks on the 3rd ignited on the beach and fireworks on the 5th ignited from a barge. If there are fireworks on the 5th fired from a barge, they should be fired aware from the beach. If there are professionals running the fireworks demonstration, they will have insurance. If there are problems on the 5th with fireworks, then call 911 and notify the police. It was suggested that all residents be alerted to the potential for problems. Tim Bennett indicated he would be willing to contact the Chief on this issue if there was *factual information on party* and not just rumors. The membership acknowledged that they shared Donna's concerns.

5. **Nomination and Elections of Officers:**

This is an election year. If anyone has interest in running for office, wants to be on board, or wants to nominate someone, please contact Chris or Maura.

6. **New Business:**

a. **The Beach**

- i. John Vacha has been attending the Beach Management Planning meetings between the White Horse Beach Association and the town. John noted that Long Beach had lots of problems that included drinking, lewd behaviors, etc. A number of rules and restrictions went into place and Long Beach now has a Beach Manager. The Long Beach plan is almost completed with the focus shifting to White Horse Beach (WHB) which is now a public beach. John noted that whatever is planned for WHB will impact Priscilla Beach which will require PBA's support. For example, if the plans calls for bringing in sand for WHB located on the south end and there isn't approval from PBA it will affect the appearance of Priscilla Beach. Since this is work funded by the town, and there is no expense to the PBA, John suggested that PBA members attend the planning meetings. The meetings will go on for at least a year, and John plans on attending. However, additional voices are needed to give input into what the beach plan entails. It was thought that since WHB is a public beach, there may be foot patrols.
- ii. John noted he meets regularly with town officials and he would also be willing to address the issue of fireworks off a barge on July 5th, but again, only if the information was factual.
- iii. John agreed with Tim Bennett's suggestion to call the police for beach issues. John noted that the police due respond, but they will prioritize their response depending on what other issues may be of concern at that time.
- iv. White Horse Beach (WHB): With enforcement of parking at WHB, expect to see parking on side roads.

Priscilla Beach Association

Opening Meeting Saturday June 27, 2015

- b. **Pilgrim Power Plant:** the Power Plant has requested permission to elongate the jetty. This raised concerns about the effect on Priscilla Beach. It was noted that in the past \$2,500 was spent to investigate erosion problem. The existing jetty has been causing problems; an extended jetty will cause problems. Response: This is a beach management issue and should go before the Beach Planning Committee; the jetty is a legitimate concern. Contact Meg Sheehan, an attorney, working on 2 law suits against Pilgrim; this may be one of them. Send an email blast to all members alerting them to the issue. Year round residents are needed to address this issue.
- c. **Member Concerns:** The Board needs to be proactive in response to members' concerns, seek action and not just tell members to form a committee.
- d. **Budget FY2015:** The budget was approved by unanimous vote. The President noted that the bylaws allow the Executive Board to operate as a corporation which empowers the Board to pay bills, address line items. The Board approved the budget a few weeks ago. \$7600 is going back into capital improvements. Everything else remains the same.
- e. **Basketball Court:** Trash has been collection inside the basketball court: water bottles, paper cups, etc. Response: It was suggested that if you have children who use the court, please ask them to pick up after themselves. A trash barrel will be placed inside the court to encourage use.
- f. **Graffiti:** it was noted that there has been some graffiti in neighborhood. There is a little bit on back of building.
- g. **Correction to the Secretary's Report:** One member has been recycling the trash at the beach and indicated that it is profitable, in that it pays for her gas.
- h. **Ice Cream Social:** a volunteer is needed to run the social. Tentative date is August 22nd. Patty Schneider will put a sign up during the Kids' Dances requesting a volunteer.
- i. **Beach Clean Up:** there will be a clean up the day after the bonfire starting at 9AM. Bring some trash bags.
- j. **Donations:** a member would like to donate a working electric stove to the Association. The donation was acknowledged; the member will bring the stove to the clubhouse and the old stove will be disposed of.
- k. **Paint Night:** this year's event is being held as a private PBA function and not through Paint Night which lowers the fee to \$25. However, we cannot use the term "Paint Night." Pay by cash or check made out to Joanne Fantasia Cedrone. Payment can be left at 28 Quaker Road. Sign up ahead of time.

Priscilla Beach Association

**Opening Meeting
Saturday June 27, 2015**

- I. **Fencing:** one member offered to repair the fence on the south end which the pickets are not attached to the cross supports. This was approved by the membership.

The next general meeting was scheduled for Saturday Sept 5th, the Saturday before Labor Day, consistent with the bylaws.

The motion to adjourn was received from the floor, and seconded. There were no opposing votes.

The meeting adjourned at 11: 25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Curcio
Virginia Curcio, Secretary
eSignature
6/27/2015

cc: Board of Directors