

Priscilla Beach Association

**Opening Meeting
Saturday, July 2, 2011**

Present: Association Officers and Board Members: Julianne Doyle-Pistorino, Paul Champagne, John Reardon, Virginia Curcio, George Ward, Richard Valzania,

Absent: Board Member Kevin Coyne:

Tardy: Board Member Patti Schneider

General Membership: greater than 35 member head count in attendance indicating a quorum was present

The annual Opening Meeting of the Priscilla Beach Association (PBA, or the Association) was called to order on July 2, 2011 at 09:07AM by Acting President Julianne Doyle-Pistorino. At the immediate onset of the meeting the Acting President offered an explanation of the Acting Position due to the recent resignation by former President Eddie Reid. This was followed by a round of applause for Julianne's efforts. Julianne offered wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2011 Summer Season.

Immediately following was the introduction of officers indicating the presence of all current officers and 2 of the 4 board members with the exception. Board member Patti Schneider arrived during the meeting.

Acting President:	Julianne Doyle-Pistorino
Vice President:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Paul Champagne
Assistant:	Treasurer John Reardon
Secretary:	Virginia Curcio
Board Members:	George Wolf
	Richard Valzania
	Patti Schneider

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all followed by a moment silence for those who have served our country.

The President offered thanks to the Board for all the work over the 2010-2011 winter indicating that a lot of background work went on this winter to keep the PBA intact for the summer season.

The President indicated that she will be in the position until till Labor Day, at which time all the officers' terms expire. Goals for the summer were outlined that will continue to protect the beach and promote beach, civic and community activities. The President stated that anyone could/should contact her with issues vital to the Association, in particular the need to maintain and increase membership. The President set the tone for the meeting requesting that all members speak up and speak freely but with good feelings and respect for fellow members citing the need to keep people coming back and to maintain good neighborly connections.

Priscilla Beach Association

**Opening Meeting
Saturday, July 2, 2011**

Order of Business

1. Secretary's Report: Virginia Curcio

- a. The Secretary provided a brief overview of the events from last year's closing meeting. Items were summarized due to the length of the minutes.

A delayed motion from the floor following the President's report was made to accept the Secretary's Report as summarized. The motion was seconded from the floor. The motion to accept the minutes as noted passed with all members in favor; there were no dissenters.

2. Assistant Treasurer's Report: John Reardon

- a. **Dues collection** for 2011 was noted to be slightly behind last year at this time. There are currently 270 dues paying members. John Reardon provided a chart indicating a breakdown of dues paying members by street address.
- b. **Clubhouse roof** needs to be replaced before the Association loses the clubhouse due to damage. Estimates are between \$10,000 and \$14,000. John will review both bids for specificity on the work.
- c. **Analysis of paid dues** and how the money is allocated (i.e. taxes, clubhouse, beach maintenance, insurance) indicated that \$24.63 of each \$100 received as dues goes to support members who do not pay their dues. This evolved into a general discussion on how to get individual households to pay their dues without cause negative feelings in the community. The Assistant Treasurer noted that if everything stays the same, the organization will be in the red at the end of the year due to the roof expenditures; as a result the roof will need to be paid for from the general fund. Board members have initiated spending cuts to address this issue and to keep PBA intact.

General discussion included the fact that non-paying members receive up to 3 notices without effect. That if the PBA cannot pay the real estate taxes, the Town will take the beach back and the Association will lose the beach, as well as all the associated benefits (i.e. private beach, improved real estate value). Funding is also needed for the roof replacement expenditures. Concerns were raised on how to address this situation. After some discussion, the President tabled the discussion indicating that a committee would be formed at the end of the meeting to address this issue, which met with the general approval of the members. Suggestions offered included:

- Post notices of those who do not pay. This was seen as negative and possible violation of new privacy laws
- Volunteers to assist with painting and possibly to assist in the roof repairs.
- As a cost saving measure Marty King who developed and has agreed to maintain the website suggested canceling the budget line item devoted to the website development and maintenance, offering his service for the website at not charge.

A motion from the floor was made to accept Marty's suggested. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

A motion from the floor was made to accept the Assistant Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded from the floor. The motion passed without dissent.

Priscilla Beach Association

**Opening Meeting
Saturday, July 2, 2011**

3. President's Report: Julianne Doyle-Pistorino

- a. **John Alden Drainage Project:** Several members met with Denis Westgate from the Town to discuss the project and the status of the drainage problem on John Alden. Julianne outlined the Town's proposal to reduce the storm water flow onto Priscilla Beach by the introduction of two leaching areas. In the spring of 2012 the Town will repave the road surfaces. Questions the project details from the floor were addressed by Paul Champagne. In particular it was noted that repaving needed to be done next Spring to allow for settling, and since according to the town, once the road was opened it could not be done again for another 5 years. Member John Calhoun who attended the meeting indicated that there are better ways to do this but that the Association was fortunate to receive assistance/funding from the Town for this project. John also indicated that the fix proposed by the Town was a good one. Paul indicated to expect settling, which is already occurring since the start of the project. It was reported that the Town had decided to complete the repairs with town employees rather than contract out.
- b. **Order of Conditions:** Paperwork has been completed and is now on file with the state which allows PBA to maintain the beach. The Order is renewed up until April 2013. Thanks were extended to Charlie Natale for his work on this.
- c. **Entergy Grant:** Julianne noted that grant application submitted last year was denied since the Association is not a 501-C (3). Discussion among the Board members indicated that PBA does not qualify as a 501 C3 even though the Association is a Not-for-Profit organization. Paul indicated that PBA cannot combine the clubhouse and beach property for the purposes of filing the application. Even if it was possible, PBA would still be ¼ acre below the minimum requirement. So future funds from an Entergy grant are lost to the Association. Entergy was contacted again after the tsunami in Japan to evaluate the possibility of "good neighbor" funds; Entergy was non-responsive to that request. Use of money from the Entergy grant will now have to be taken from the General Fund. Paul Champagne indicated that the Entergy Grant was received 6 years ago, and asked that if anyone knows the whereabouts of the paper work it would be helpful. It was suggested to contact Maura Hern since she had done the original work on the grant.

4. Current Issues:

- a. **July 3 Festivities:** It was noted that this is a very active day in neighborhood. Paul reiterated that PBA rules for beach are governed by Town of Plymouth. Call the Police, Dog Officer for any issues. Julianne spoke with Captain Rogers of the Plymouth Police Department.
 - 1. The roads to the beach will be closed at 6 PM. Captain Rogers stated that if guests/non-residents are not in by 6PM, they will not be allowed through. The Police will not accept lists to check on residential/guest status since they will not have the time. There will be no parking on Rocky Hill Road from Entergy all the way down.

Priscilla Beach Association

Opening Meeting Saturday, July 2, 2011

2. Permits were issued by the Fire Department for 2 bonfires: for the boardwalk area and for the stairs area. A request was received from abutters to make sure the bonfire is on PBA property and not on private section of beach. Last year, permits were posted in bulleting board. This year permits need to be on someone's person. It was also noted that allowing small fires was up to Fire Department. If the area gets out of control, the police and fire department will shut everyone down.
3. PBA Security will be on the beach until July 1, 2 and 3rd until 2 AM. Security is provided by John Roger, a former Boston Police officer. His vehicle will be on the beach: a blue Chevy trailblazer. Police will clear beach at midnight. It was unknown if a mounted patrol would be used again this year. It was specifically noted that glass is not allowed.

A motion was made from the floor to accept the President's report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed without any dissenters.

5. **Report of Membership:** As of July 1, 2011 there are 201 dues-paying members. This turned into another general discussion on how to address this problem.

Mary Jane Calhoun asked if there was any reason why the Association couldn't vote to publish the names of non-paying households. A number of individuals dissented on this. Mrs. Belville noted that in past minutes there was mention of not being able to publicly list people who haven't paid. Sally Howe suggesting posting the names of paid members framed in a positive way. It was also suggested that non-paying members not be allowed to participate in events.

Kathy Fitzgerald suggested a two prong approach: publish names of those who have paid, and a letter to those who have not paid detailing the benefits of membership and the restrictions of non-payment of dues. Restricting participation would be based on a vague reference to insurance issues. Paul Champagne indicated that this was not possible; everyone has the right to use the beach. If someone gets hurt on the beach, the Association has insurance to cover those incidents. Julianne noted that non-payment of dues should deny the right to vote on any PBA issues or participate in meetings.

The overriding concern was that posting names of paid individuals would not propel anyone to pay delinquent dues. However it might start some thinking along that line.

The question was: How can we reach out to these people and encourage them to pay \$100 dues? Paul Champagne noted that residents along Rocky Hill Road in particular are not in a position to walk to the beach, and don't pay since they perceive the beach as not good or not useful to them. In addition he noted that people don't pay dues through grudges or ill-will. The only thing that would work is for paid members to encourage their neighbors to pay.

It was noted that the first dues notice comes out in January/February.

Priscilla Beach Association

Opening Meeting Saturday, July 2, 2011

Julianne suggested that engendering good spirit was a way to bring people back. Mrs. Belville raised the idea of street captains who could contact folks on their street. It was noted that this would require volunteers and that volunteerism is not all that high right now. Derek ?? (Charlement) suggested PBA member stickers. Ginny Curcio noted this will require annual stickers. Marty King, former president in the 80s, noted that annual stickers were successful.

Improved communication on how dues are spent was seen as valuable in educating people who are not paying in. John Reardon motioned to post paid and non-paid members. Paul Champagne indicated that in the past the membership list was held sacred. Any member could review the list, but it was never made public. A suggestion from floor was made to post paid households by street indicating which streets had paid the most based on a percentage and not on dollars given the variance in numbers of households on each street. Marty King made the motion to commit to making comprehensive communication plan. This was tabled by the President since a committee would be formed at the end of the meeting.

6. **Buoy Committee: John Calhoun;** John noted that the north end of the beach is in good shape. Volunteers are needed to meet at 1 PM this afternoon for movement of the buoys. The buoys and raft need to be readied, and will be placed in the water on Monday, July 4th after the bonfires on Sunday evening. No money is needed this year to maintain the buoys, raft and boardwalks; however John noted that funds will be required next year. Julianne volunteered Paul Pistorino, Tim Bennett volunteered as well.
7. **Unfinished business: Julianne Doyle-Pistorino**
 - a. **Kids Dances:** Julianne noted that the Fitzgeralds will continue to run the Friday night dances for children and that Paula Dillon will continue the exercises classes on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday mornings with yoga on the beach on Sundays dependent on the tides.
 - b. **Planned Events:**
 1. July 9th, Band Concert by Better From a Distance with PBA's own Jack Calhoun as the drummer. The lead singer is a local Plymouthian. The concert will benefit the PBA and the Susan G Koman Foundation. A noise permit has been requested from the town. This is a BYOB function. Light food/snacks will be available.
 2. July 23rd or August 6th for Sand Castle contest. Volunteers are needed to run sand castle contest. July 23 or Aug 6 were designated as good days based on the tide charts. Ann Dempster and Chris Salari stepped up to volunteer and continue this tradition.
 3. Saturday August 13, ice cream social at 6:30 PM. Julianne would like to offer a prize for "the most generations present." This would be a walk up affair after dinner with kids, grandkids and adults
 - c. **Acknowledgements were extended to**
 1. MaryJane for her work on the PBA calendar
 2. The Marshalls for the landscaping around the benches at the North entrance to the beach.
 3. To the 6 individuals who showed for beach cleanup. It was noted that things have greatly improved at board walk area.
 4. There was general acknowledgement and a round of applause from the general membership for the work done by the officers and the board members

Priscilla Beach Association

Opening Meeting Saturday, July 2, 2011

- d. **General reminders** were provided on use of the beach. Rules were posted. Members were told to sign up for copies of the beach rules for individual households if they wanted them. Members were reminded that trucks and trailers parked on the beach are at risk. Paul noted that there is no designated parking area and the Town does not agree with a previously made promise of parking area. Leash law are in effect; dogs are allowed to run free on the beach. The dog must be restrained and not merely have the leash attached to the collar while they run. This brought up a general discussion on ways to monitor individuals accessing the beach. George Ward indicated that in the pay individuals were paid to monitor the beach. Current security costs \$50/hour; this was deemed to costly. Consideration was given to hiring teenagers, who could review membership lists prior to individuals entering the beach. Several members deemed this inappropriate for various reasons. Further consideration was tabled.
8. **New Business**
- a. **Signage:** new signs are under consideration that will provide a consistently formatted message for the beach areas. John Reardon has identified a company and is awaiting quotes.
 - b. **Appointment of Committees**
 - i. **Funding Committee:** Bill Doyle indicated he will work on the Funding Committee if it included increasing dues. It was noted that when dues were increased in the past from \$50 to \$100, no additional funds were generated. Fewer members paid the additional dues, so funding was essentially level. There was no further discussion and Bill Doyle declined participation. John Calhoun indicated that an assessment would be needed to replace the roof. A recommendation was made to table this until the Fall meeting. However John Reardon indicated that most roofers like to complete the work in the sunshine to aid in adherence of the shingles. John also noted that eventually the Association should consider increasing the dues. Paul Champagne noted that the Board had looked at increasing dues and decided not to do it. The solution presented was to get people to pay their dues and to consider incremental increases in dues.
 - ii. **Dues Committee/Communication Committee.** It was suggested to put up posters that would alert the membership to the dues analysis, and what dues are for. The committee was to formulate ideas and present that information to the Board and to the membership in the Fall. Suggestions included: publicizing the meeting agenda at earlier date, especially as it relates to dues, which might generate interest increased meeting attendance. Publishing the expenses and amounts that paying members cover for non-paying members. Paul Champagne suggested that the only fair way to assess dues was based on property value with beachfront residents paying the highest dues, and dues gradually declining as houses are distanced from the beach. Another suggestion included placing a lien on a property were the household owned dues. There was a question from the floor on how dues were determined: if the dues were based on the budget. Paul Champagne indicated that the bylaws specify how budget will be set and that the budget is based on dues.

Priscilla Beach Association

**Opening Meeting
Saturday, July 2, 2011**

A general concern was that if the roof is replaced, the Association will have a negative balance based on the current budget. Sally Calhoun, Bob Palong and ?? Curry agreed to get together after meeting to explore options for increasing dues payment and ways to communicate those options to the members.

- iii. **Nominating Committee:** It was noted that the current officers' term expire this year and a new slate of officers is needed. If new nominees do not step forward and the current officers and board members decide not to run, there will be no leadership to the organization. Terms of office: a full slate of officers is vested for 2 years. Ann Dempster and Chris Mallard volunteered for the Nominating Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Virginia Curcio

Virginia Curcio

Secretary

eSignature 7/02/2011

/file

CC: Board of Directors