

Minutes:
BBLA Annual Meeting

Saturday June 15, 2019
10:00 am
Bethany Beach Town Hall

The BBLA Board met on Saturday, June, 15, 2019.

In attendance were: Claire Loftus, Susan Fried, Pat McGuire, Kathy Sierra, Mary Louise Embrey, Jerry Hardiman, Jack Walsh, Kathy Shorter, Judy Bullis, Tracy Mulligan, Diane Fogash, Ron Dobes, and Jim Sirkis
Board members not present: Margaret Young (recovering) and Martin Decre (not feeling well)

Approximately 20 (non-board) members were in attendance.

Meeting Opened by BBLA President Pat McGuire

- Nominating Committee Report (Diane Fogash), members up for renewal were announced and new members were introduced; officers were also announced
 - Motions to approve the 2019 board composition were **approved**
- Treasurer's Annual Report was presented and **approved**
 - Copies were provided to audience members
 - Notice was given that it was also going to be available on the BBLA website
- Reports from Officers and Committees
 - Donations Committee
 - Potential applicants – Farmers Market - \$1,000; Dinker/CHAC (Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee) - \$2,000; Operation Seas the Day - \$1,000
 - No donations have yet been processed in 2019
- Report from Membership Secretary (Tracy Mulligan's emailed report and oral report)

- 1,229 members - about half of the BB households
- Newsletter - about half of the membership prefers electronic version
- Security of data and financial information was discussed and assurances provided
- Emeritus members were announced and appreciation award presented to Tracy Mulligan - other 2 members (Margaret Young and John Himmelberg) were not able to be present
- Senator Hocker presentation
 - Senator for 9 incorporated towns - prefers to stay out of town politics
 - 8 fire companies in his district - significant local influencers
 - Grew up in Millville and has seen tremendous changes - attended Lord Baltimore School for 12 years
 - Saw the first beach replenishment for BB and the recent one - people who were upset about the dunes now understand their importance
 - Has seen 2 or 3 boardwalks taken out in the past
 - Bad storms caused the water to come up as far as the Assawoman canal bridge
 - Sea Level Rise fortunately doesn't occur that way now
 - Discussed ways to address maintenance of the beaches
 - 2012 Federal accommodation 1% tax was passed - - not nearly enough
 - Sponsoring a bill for tax on unincorporated areas to help increase beach replenishment funds - all surrounding areas enjoy the beach
 - Discussed condition of the Inlet - depth of the water causing a problem - the Corps said the design of the Inlet is a problem - existing concrete structures need to be removed
 - Need to rebuild the Bay beaches
 - Disappearing marshlands - there are ways to improve them - phragmites presence adds to the erosion problem
 - Mentioned the opioid crisis - significant problem in Delaware - use of Narcan and the Delaware Prescription Drug Action Committee (involving pharmacies and law enforcement) has brought the number of deaths down

- Ban on plastic bags - he's against it because he stated there isn't an alternative in the legislation
- Breakwater Beach (Campano Project) - wasn't aware of it until it began
 - Going to look into it
 - Didn't think it could be approved until after approval of the Corps of Engineers
- Issues Discussed During the Q&A Portion
 - Study of the Inlet - discusses water flow in the Assawoman Bay
 - Dredging hasn't helped use of boating - not an open channel for boating for the past 11 years - Hocker said the Corps wouldn't let DE dredge the canal more than 30 inches
 - Lewes canal is great for boating - said that's because they have a better flow of water
 - Burden sharing for beach replenishment - people outside of BB are resistant to higher taxes
 - Jettys no longer used - they are still there but Town is against them because the Corps is against them (do more harm than good)
 - Update on Windmill Farm - held up legislation because it was harmful to Delmarva Power - now went bankrupt and it was sold to NRG - doesn't think we'll ever see offshore windmills
 - Organizations like BBLA do play a significant role in addressing beach issues
 - Share the Care Act recently signed into law - good law to help keep people in their homes - aides can now provide certain medications under the direction of the families

The meeting was adjourned at noon.