



May 2020

President's Report

This past year has been very challenging for everyone – personally and professionally – old and young alike. Almost everyone I know has experienced loss of one type or another, and from this we all hold out the hope for a new beginning and a return to some semblance of “normal.”

Middlesex Beach has served as a haven for many people over the winter. Those of us who live in the community full-time have been struck by how many other folks have over-wintered here. While we have worked hard at keeping apart for safety and health reasons, it is always great to see other neighbors on walks and on the beach to wave to and say hello to.

Your MBA Board has continued its regular work and we have been successful at holding monthly Board meetings by Zoom. We are pleased that so many community members have been able to join these meetings to keep up with MBA and the work that is being done.

It has been a busy and productive year for the MBA Board. Highlights of our work are:

- Sponsored a first-ever MBA photography contest. Craig Kellerman submitted the winning photo (voted on by members of the community) and his work will grace the cover of the 2021/2022 MBA Directory.
- Produced a survey to explore the desires of community members to maintain trash receptacles on the ocean walkways or not. Responses to that survey were a resounding desire to continue with trash receptacles. To this end, new Trash Enclosures are being built and will grace the walkways by the summer season.
- Of grave concern has been the amount of rain we have experienced over the winter months resulting in flooding and standing water throughout the Pine Side. We are allocating considerable resources to clean and clear ditches and culverts to support better drainage.
- Of equal concern is the amount of vandalism the community has experienced this winter: examples of this are: trash dumping in the Ocean Side Trash Enclosures and at the Commercial properties' trash enclosures; damage to the Guard Shack by an unidentified truck; spray painting; destruction of dune sand fencing; and the theft of one of MBA's Dog Waste stations. We ask everyone to keep eyes open and report behavior that seems “off” in our community.
- We participated in discussions with Comcast about the possibility of bringing Comcast Internet into MBA. Ultimately it was determined that the contract Comcast requires is not feasible for the MBA Board to enter.
- We have formally submitted the paperwork to renew the Permit with the Army Corps of Engineers to allow MBA to do beach replenishment should the need arise in future years.
- We have renewed the Permit with DNREC which allows our Community Facilities Committee members to move sand around and maintain the beach walkways.
- We have created an Ad Hoc Fund-Raising Committee to look at options for raising money to support community projects.

- We have a plan to create and implement Owner Welcome Sessions to be offered on a regular basis throughout the year for new and not-new owners. Each session will cover different topics and processes in the MBA community.
- Delmarva Power will be evaluating the screening along the Bridge Road fencing of the power station; and replanting for better visual screening.
- We have signed a three-year contract with Ruppert Landscaping Services. This continuity of service will allow for better community maintenance and appearance and brings a better pricing structure to us.

While the regular maintenance of the community goes on, DeIDOT is working on the project to install lighting in the median of Rt 1 from Fred Hudson Road to Fenwick. Overhead lighting has been completed through Bethany and will continue through MBA and South Bethany. The goal of this project is to increase safety on Rt 1. The electrical infrastructure has been installed; and we are awaiting installation of the lights in the median. In addition to overhead lights, we will receive two flashing pedestrian crossing treatments (RRFB's). The RRFB's at Rt 1 and Bridge Road with a second at Bayberry Road are scheduled for installation before June 30, 2021.

Beach Replenishment in Bethany and South Bethany has resulted in a spectacular beach for all of us. And we are anticipating a very busy beach season. Social distancing and masks will be required on the ocean walkways; and we urge family groups to gather safely while enjoying our wonderful beach.

I want to celebrate the good work that is done by your MBA Board, its committee members and the volunteers in our community. Nothing is accomplished without these dedicated people who give so tirelessly to support MBA. As a community, our strength is our support of each other and the community itself. And our commitment to maintaining Middlesex Beach as a very special place.

I hope the spring and summer brings happiness and good health to each of you. And I am hopeful we can gather safely soon!

Margie Cyr

MBA President