



Middlesex Beach Association

December 17, 2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beach Patrol

Returning head count seems to be in good shape, thank goodness. Looks like we will need to replace three guards and leadership will be consistent with last year.

I had a couple side conversations about the use of the Polaris. The Beach Patrol needs the Polaris to keep emergency equipment at the ready for backboards, AED machine, etc. The timeframe to transport that type of equipment from mid beach to north or south beach manually could make a critical difference. All the patrols have some type of vehicle - Polaris, quad, pick-up truck etc. and I think we should have access to one. I realize there are other needs, and they are expensive but that's the Beach Patrols perspective.

Last summer, we had several guards compete at nationals. They funded their own way, which is not typical. I personally funded the production of t-shirts and used the proceeds (including the cost) to help ease some of that expense for the competitors. Several community members expressed interest in a mid-summer beach party to act as a fund raiser for the guards. Fenwick has a very successful bonfire every year that helps fund the guards' competition expenses and equipment. I would love the Board's take on that and see if they would be interested in doing the same.

I will be reviewing with Holden any needs on the equipment front in advance of budget talks. There is wage pressure out there, but I have more work to do in order to see if we need to respond. I think we are ok with what we have but I will discuss with Holden during our budget talks. I think we are good on the major equipment but might need some minor uniform refreshes. I will keep the Budget Committee posted.

Community Patrol

- Met with Dave Greer and Gary Graf to discuss upcoming year staffing and potential changes in procedures, follow up meeting scheduled for early in new year
- 5 returning staff confirmed, 2 pending
- Running ad in Coastal Point earlier than in past, also posting to INDEED as well as several local colleges with Criminal Justice programs
- Obtained quote for outsourced night security services, will further consider during budgeting process

- Exploring pilot security camera at site of current Guard Shack
- Preliminary budget for 2023 submitted for budget committee review

Landscaping

TWIG, which is the Tree Work Impact Group, is busy!

We enjoyed a very successful pine needle collection Saturday morning together with neighbors on November 19th that resulted in several blocks of Beach Plum being mulched. Volunteer service using our own Middlesex pine needles resulted in zero budgetary expenditures for mulch.

Another collect and distribute pine needle event is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th beginning at noon.

Vine warriors are working on releasing vines at the bottom of trees located on MBA property. Thus far Bayberry, Errett, and Bridge have been completed resulting in three streets on the Pine Side finished with more work expected.

TWIG members identified trees recommended for removal by Jeremy Hagger of Costal Plant Care and then marked them with orange spray paint. It was decided to keep many as there would be numerous and unsightly gaps. For several trees there are follow up questions to ensure none are kept that are terribly sick and/or have infestations. Two trees will require professional removal; TWIG is working with CAS to issue a request for bids before the end of the year.

Our Middlesex Pollinator's Garden and Wildflower Meadow are in the initial stages of planning following the successful test of wildflower seeds from Ernst Seeds this past summer. To kill the grass and weeds without any applications of herbicides, over the next few months we will cover the areas with cardboard and mulch. This approach is effective as the cardboard will break down over time without completely suffocating the ground below it. There will be a forthcoming community request for cardboard boxes to be donated.

Spring packet material is in discussion.

Reached agreement with the Community Facilities Committee that all landscaping work is channeled through the Landscaping Committee. Please contact landscaping@middlesexbeach.org or Holly Fluty Dempsey for any suggestions or concerns.

Evaluated the end of Bridge Road for way forward. It is expected that DELMARVA will be contacted regarding their property along with the Middlesex property owners impacted, along with CFC for the long-standing drainage issues.

Come join TWIG — MBA's Tree Work Impact Group — this Saturday at noon for our final 2022 pine needle collection and distribution! We will have warm cider and cookies on the corner of Beach Plum and Bridge Roads. If you have rakes or any other appropriate gardening equipment those are most welcome although your presence is what really matters. We anticipate the work to end at the latest by 2:00. Contact person is Holly Fluty Dempsey please text or call at 240.421.4167. Happy Holidays everyone!