

MIDDLESEX BEACH ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 3, 2014

The Middlesex Beach 2014 spring meeting was called to order at 10 am at St. Martha's Episcopal Church in Bethany Beach, DE.

Board Members present: Sharon Adams, Mary Bode Byrd, Glenn Hamilton, Judy Myers, Natasha Reatig, Geoffrey Sella, Ellen Throop, and David Wiecking.

Others present: David Taylor, Beach Committee Chairman; Martha Wright and Randy Brewster (RPM).

Sharon Adams welcomed attendees and introduced the board members and new residents.

Minutes of the August 31, 2013 membership meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sharon announced that the produce stand had been granted permission by Sussex County to operate in Middlesex for 5 years. She then turned the meeting over to Ellen Throop to discuss the Covenants revisions. Ellen reported that 60% of the votes in favor the covenant are needed in order to pass them; 41% of the votes opposed to the covenants are needed to reject them. Approximately 131 votes in favor had been turned in, and 147 votes are needed.

Sharon reminded homeowners that contact information is needed in case of an emergency. For example, someone was found living in a Middlesex home and the owners needed to be contacted.

A 2-year contract has been signed with RPM.

Residents need to have enough trash containers and lids, as well as an enclosure for the trash that is at least 90% of the height of the trashcans. An open side or gate facing the house is needed for recycling containers.

There will be clearly marked recycling containers on the dune crossings this summer.

RIGHT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Martha Wright suggested that homeowners leave a key with RPM so that homes can be accessed quickly. The keys are kept on file with coded numbers on them. Homeowners can also ask RPM to check their homes if they go away; there is a charge for this. They can also get a Knox box for the fire department to use. Martha emphasized the need to have house numbers clearly posted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Geoff reported that Middlesex finished the year well within budget.

BEACH

David reported that all the lifeguards have been hired, with a core patrol of 16. Most are returning from last year and Justin Voorheis will be returning as captain. Three lifeguards are certified first responders. David reminded residents to read the message board on the guard stands and the information on beach tags and note the color of the beach conditions flag on the beach. Beachgoers were requested to setup their umbrellas behind the guard sight line, fill in excavations, and confine volleyball games to the area between the stairs and close to the dunes.

Junior lifeguards will meet Tuesday, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 10. Beach hot dog picnics/games are scheduled for July 13 and 27 and August 10. These events each include a safety talk. The Middlesex lifesaving competition will be August 13.

BEAUTIFICATION/SOCIAL

Happy hours for 2014 have been scheduled. Mary reminded everyone of the community magic show scheduled for that night at 7 pm. A Middlesex party celebrating 55 summers is planned for Saturday, August 30 at 5 pm. Anniversary T-shirts are for sale for \$20 (\$22 for XXL).

A new watering system has been set up, with the help of a trailer with a pump. A person has been hired to help with this.

Changes to the beach side entrance of Middlesex are planned to increase safety. DelDOT is reviewing the plan.

Sharon stated that MBA will install more visible "No Outlet" signs on the roads in the pines.

BUILDING

One new home was completed at the end of last summer, and two more homes are in the process of being built. Major remodeling projects have been completed or are in process, along with a number of small projects. Homeowners were reminded of the hours and days when construction is permissible. The Building Committee requests that homeowners report any violations to RPM or a committee member as soon as possible. Those undertaking major projects should also report when they are ready for checks of height or setbacks. The Building Committee is asking applicants submit plans to them before going to Sussex County for approval. The Committee is also considering the hiring of a part-time building monitor.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES (CFC)

Road repairs will take place May 12-14. Brush pick-up is scheduled for May 12. Retention ponds will be built along the shoulders of Rt. 1 in Middlesex and South Bethany in a project coordinated by the Center for Inland Bays.

Dave discussed the existing Beach Fund, and the fact that in order to use it to place sand on the beach after an emergency, MBA would first have to go through the process of obtaining Army Corps permits for beach replenishment. He further recommended that we hire an engineering firm to help us with the permit process. CFC has been checking all

dune crossing to make sure they are sufficient to carry the seasonal traffic. Loose sand is being removed from walkways.

LEGAL

The contracts with RPM and Allied Waste have been finalized. The commercial owners will be sent messages letting them know how, when, and under what conditions they can receive a trash rebate. Settlement discussions with DeMarie regarding assessments owed to Middlesex are in process.

SECURITY

Middlesex now has a new vehicle for Security.

BUDGET

Geoff reported that the Budget Committee recommended an annual assessment of \$1,700 due to increasing expenses, which the Board had adopted subject to approval by the membership. As an example of the increased expenses, Worker's Compensation increased 68%. A major resurfacing of the roads will be needed in the next few years, and there is not enough in the capital improvements fund to cover that. Trash pick-up costs, however, have decreased and we will have a third day of pickup during the summer season.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the 2014 Assessment, which includes an increase to \$1,700 from last year's \$1625.

PRESENTATION REGARDING CHANGING FLOOD INSURANCE RATES

Greg Williams of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) discussed the changing flood maps and flood insurance rates. He displayed new flood maps showing changes related specifically to Middlesex Beach.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting. The end of season meeting will be on August 30, 2014.