

BOG Meeting June 10, 2024

In attendance in person: President Jerome Zadera, Governors Beau Breeden, Cheri Fairchild, Thor Harris, Ed Hayes, Mary Lamb, Matt Layman, Neil Macindoe, Kim Pollack, Michele Shipley, Town Manager Frank Tewey, Budget Committee members Blake Morris and Charlie Shoul and guests Becky Benner, Charlie Corliss, and Stacy Wildberger.

President Zadera called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He congratulated all those students who graduated or were promoted. With school out, there is much more activity on the beaches and parks. Please check in with beach attendants, lock your vehicles, and use caution when driving around the Cape. He thanked Governor Lamb's team for another phenomenal Strawberry Festival that gets better each year. Budget planning through the winter is now about to be implemented with the June 30 end of fiscal year 2024 (FY24) and the FY25 start that includes the reserve. Staff evaluations will be held in closed session.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Minutes of the May 13, 2024 BOG meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Governor Lamb, seconded by Governor Harris, and approved unanimously.

The financial statements for April 2024 were discussed. A motion was made to approve by Governor Layman and seconded by Governor Lamb. Balances of the bank accounts were: Operating funds- \$221,000, Beach restoration grants- \$193,000, piers- \$323,000 and Special Community Benefits District (SCBD)- \$351,000. There was discussion about legal fees over past years. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Tewey reported on the following: Pavement markings and warning signs for the new crosswalk on Cape St Claire Rd will be installed at the north end of Woodland Circle in June, with LED lights to follow in the fall. A virtual meeting regarding the Dept of Public Works sewer force main replacement at Hampton Dr, St Margarets Dr and River Bay Rd will be held June 26 at 6pm. They asked to use Cape property for staging but were denied due to our own use of the spaces.

Budget committee meetings will be July 18, August 22 and September 19. The first was held on May 16.

Police officers are covering 25 of 30 dates in June. A 5th floating officer was recruited to fill in. With the increase in pay starting in July, officers will cover an average of 16 dates per month to stay within the FY25 budget. Security camera service at the piers is being upgraded from 2GB service to 100GB at a cost increase of \$57 per month. No update on automatic gates.

Cape Vibes has cancelled the June 23rd event. A quote received for a black chain link fence along the field behind the clubhouse was comparable to the quote for a wood fence. The first boat slip census was completed June 2. Swim buoys were installed at the main beach and will be installed at Lake Claire. County forester Nathan Markline met with Mr. Tewey and representatives from Richard's Tree Care to review open vegetation management plans (VMPs), of which we have 4. He will be leaving his position but will inform his replacement of the cooperative relationship with the Cape. If anyone has photos or receipts for items planted in relation to a CSCIA VMP, please contact Mr. Tewey so that he can submit them as proof of completion.

Four building requests were received this month, including one for replacement of a floating pier that requires a pier/bulkhead agreement. Riparian rights letters may not be reaching all necessary properties. The county inspected stairs built on the bulkhead at 1224 Riverbay Rd without county permits or CSCIA permission. The homeowner will remove the stairs to avoid a violation. Notice is being sent to the owners of 1245 Mount Pleasant Dr. for an addition being built without CSCIA approval.

The state mosquito control program received so many requests in the first three days that they stopped accepting applications. The Cape will not be sprayed in that program this year. The 2025 request will be submitted as early as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadneck Council of Communities (BCC): Governor Breeden reported that letters were submitted to the county regarding zoning, with no amendments requested for properties within Cape St Claire. Lake Claire will keep the split designations of Open Space (OS) and Marina (MA1), which allows the piers and sailing camp to operate but conservation efforts there can also continue. Deep Creek will be changed to all MA1, but with the steep slopes and critical area, development is not expected. There are changes within the Broadneck peninsula that residents should investigate, and report concerns on the county website. With the change from newspapers being delivered to homes to people having to more actively seek out this type of news, it is not commonly known. Please check it out. Amanda Feidler's County Council page is a good place to see them and make comments.

Beaches & Parks: Governor Breeden reported that beach attendants are doing a great job and asked that residents stop their vehicles and interact politely with attendants. Governor Macindoe reiterated that and asked that governors introduce themselves to the attendants and show support. He thanked the grounds crew for their work. Town Manager Tewey added that consistent messaging to the beach attendants has resulted in consistent messaging to visitors. Nonresidents turned away from one beach are being told the same thing at the next one they try. Senior attendants are supervising the new ones.

Business Lot Owners Association (BLOA): No report.

Building: See Town Manager report.

Budget: Governor Shipley said the budget committee is working on FY26.

Caper: Governor Lamb asked for articles and photos for the July/August double issue to be submitted by June 20 at the latest.

Clubhouse: Governor Lamb reported that she may purchase some new tables and chairs.

Events: Governor Lamb announced the permit for the July 4 parade has not been received yet. There will be events for kids at the beach, along with the Kona Ice truck. She was informed that candy cannot be thrown from vehicles in the parade. It can only be handed out by people walking along the route. This is to address safety concerns with kids reaching for candy near moving vehicles.

Cape Clean Up will be Wednesday through Friday morning, June 12-14 and volunteers are needed to direct traffic. Hours are 8-4:30 Wed/Thu and 8-12 Fri if possible. She had not heard that Scouts will be participating and will order an additional dumpster. See the Caper for acceptable items to dispose of. The county is probably phasing out this program. She is trying to organize a movie on the beach, hoping to purchase the rights to show the Taylor Swift concert movie.

Grants: Governor Breeden reported that the two residents who asked at the General Meeting in April about applying for a grant for a tidal station were successful in obtaining that grant. Cape St Claire will be among the first communities to partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), the US Geologic Survey (USGS), and National Air and Space Administration (NASA) to allow for collection of tide and wave action data. Representatives from NOAA toured Cape properties to evaluate the best placement of the station. Details are being worked out, but the initial grant will cover all expenses for the equipment, installation, and cellular connection. It should allow for eventual connection to the CSCIA website so that residents can find local real time weather and tide conditions. It will be used to determine if water/power will need to be shut off at the piers during unusually high tides.

Representatives from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation toured on June 3 to see the progress of the beach projects at Lake Claire and the main beach, and the 5 sites for which the \$75,000 design and planning grant awarded will be used. The tour went very well, and they are impressed with the community involvement, financial commitment, and scientific research done to prepare and monitor the completed projects. Other grant applications are pending for design and for construction.

Legislative: No legislation relative to CSCIA is pending.

Piers: Governor Breeden said boats were to be in slips by June 1. Out of many email requests for proposals for replacement of the small pier at Deep Creek and the platform around the boat ramp, only one quote has been received at \$158,945. That does not include electrical, plumbing, or a standpipe. Whether or not the standpipe is needed is still being determined. Prices are about triple what they were when last requested, and much more than estimated when the reserve study was conducted. Increases in slip rentals will have to occur more often than have been historically. At the piers meeting, it was requested that we investigate the possibility of floating piers.

Security: See Town Manager report.

Strawberry Festival: Governor Lamb thanked everyone who made the Strawberry Festival a huge success. Planning has begun for 2025. Several Governors expressed their thanks and appreciation to Governors Lamb and Pollack, and all others who volunteered.

Technology: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager Tewey said that while a first-year payment towards the reserve was not mandatory, he recommends the Board discuss using funds not expended in FY24 for a payment. Expenditures such as replacement of the Deep Creek small pier could be run through the reserve to start recording true reserve action. He added that requests be made for repairs and replacements that can be done within the FY24 budget. Governor Shipley suggested purchasing an AED machine.

The Harbour School education visit will be June 11. Brad Knopf will present at Little Magothy pier about the oyster nursery and Noah's Reef and Governor Breeden will discuss the beach restoration project at the main beach.

President Zadera reported the Walnut Ridge community acknowledged receipt of the letter regarding potentially dangerous trees.

NEW BUSINESS

Governor Breeden addressed the beneficial reuse proposal for Cape St Claire to receive sand to be dredged from the Little Magothy River. The Little Magothy River Association (LMRA) was awarded a \$900,000 Waterway Improvement Funds grant to do a full dredge. All parties involved would like the sand placed here. BioHabitats was under contract for \$44K for the smaller dredge that was to occur last winter but was cancelled due to expense. Sustainable Science has done about \$23K worth of prep work towards the \$44K contract. The scope of work for site analysis, design, permitting, and construction would be included in the LMRA granted funds expenditure, totaling about \$166,000 for our portion of the work. Details are being coordinated between CSCIA, LMRA, BioHabitats, Sustainable Science, Baylands Management and various government entities, but we are at the mercy of the permitters. Plans are being made for the dredge to be done in February of 2025, it is more likely to happen in the fall of 2025 due to permit timelines. The old stormwater pipe that was exposed at the beach at 1224 Riverbay Rd was partially repaired before, and a request will be made to include replacement of pipe out to the new rock groin. With the cost savings potential of hydro pumping, the sand might be pumped instead of trucked to fill in what is expected to take up to 15 years to occur naturally. If there is excess sand, it could potentially be added at Lake Claire beach between the root wads and entrance to the lake. Original plans from 2016 are updated at each stage of work. Transect monitoring is ongoing.

President Zadera noted that the Youth Sailing Camp will run from July 1 through August 9 from 9 am-4 pm weekdays. There will be much more activity at the beach then, so please watch out for kids and boats. They are to clean up after themselves daily.

COMMENTS

Charlie Corliss announced the Lake Claire Jams by Cape Vibes has begun. The June 23 event at the main beach was cancelled and they appreciate everyone's patience while they work out details to schedule bands and ensure a safe event. The next Sunday jam will be July 21 from 2-6 pm, with set up beginning about noon and exit by sunset. The outstanding questions include things like do they have to get liability insurance. They will work with Mr. Tewey on answering those. With some bands leaving the group, they are coordinating to fill in and are looking for Cape residents to play. They will submit information for the Caper.

Blake Morris discussed a barbeque competition he attended in Deale and asked about the possibility of having a similar event here. Discussion followed about prior BBQ events and issues with lack of interest and volunteers, liability, permitting, scheduling around other events, charging for events and serving alcohol on the main beach, etc. He was told that if he is willing to coordinate people and work within the limitations of the Cape properties, he may pursue it, but that it may be better to work with Goshen Farm.

Becky Benner reported the Garden Club plant sale was very successful and apologized for damage done to the field due to rain. Feedback included requests for more mosquito repelling plants and more Cape grown native species. There will be no events in July or August.

Mrs. Benner also reported that the Goshen Farm Preservation Society Friday evening concerts will begin this week with two local bands. Dogs, children, and food are welcome, alcohol is not. The next will be June 28. Two concerts will be held in July and two in August.

Stacy Wildberger of Cape Conservation Corps (CCC) said Wednesday Weed Warriors will work at the Serene Ravine this week. Some plants were donated to the Harbour School for their pollinator garden. Richard's Tree Care sliced the trunk of a downed tree for use as stepping "stones" along the path at Little Magothy Beach. CCC was awarded a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to purchase trees and shrubs. They have applied for a \$10K grant to buy 200 trees that can be put towards vegetation management plans because they are not part of the watershed steward program. The Habitat Heroes tour was June 4 and included three yards with impressive gardens and natural habitats. The Little Learning Libraries have been built and will be installed at Little Magothy Beach in June or July. CCC had a booth at the Strawberry Festival where kids planted milkweed seedlings.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Governor Fairchild to adjourn to closed session, seconded by Governor Shipley and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 9:00 pm. The closed session occurred from 9:07 pm to 10:02 pm. The June 10, 2024 CSCIA Board of Governors meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm.