

**CAPE ST. CLAIRE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
OCTOBER 22, 2019**

The October Quarterly Membership Meeting was convened on October 22, 2019 in the Cape St. Claire Clubhouse. President Szczytko called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. and thanked all for attending, considering the weather and the Nationals on TV. He said we are awaiting county approval of the revised bylaws, but they are up on the CSCIA website. He said the beach project is moving along. Tonight we will be dealing with the proposed FY21 budget. There are no plans to raise the cap but there will be a \$5 SCBD fee increase. The proposed budget will be in the November and December Capers prior to a vote at the January Annual Meeting. He also noted that it was nice to see the community come together recently.

**Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes:**

**The Minutes of the July 23, 2019 Quarterly Meeting:** Phil Ourisson moved that these minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Ron Malfi and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report / Approval of Profit & Loss (P&L) Statements:**

**The May 31, June 30, and July 31, 2019 P&Ls:** Barbara Breeden moved that these P&L statements be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Phil Schneider and was approved unanimously.

**Presentation of the FY2021 Budget and Discussion**

Governor Breeden referred everyone to the budget and budget letter handouts they picked up at the door. He added that both will in the November and December Capers. He pointed out that there are several budgets: SCBD, Maintenance, and Piers. The SCBD charges are added to everyone's property tax bills. The current fee is \$190 per tax account. The current cap is \$200 and that can only be changed every 2 years. The proposal is to raise the fee to \$195 this year but not raise the cap. There are 2,311 tax accounts which, at \$195 per account, would give us an SCBD income of \$450,645 in FY 21. Carrying over a reserve of about \$18,000 from FY18 brings that total to \$468, 645. He then went on to go over certain line items, noting that the 2537 lots bring in about \$25,000 in maintenance fees. He noted that Clubhouse fees were going up, as were Caper advertising fees. All of this contributes to the Maintenance budget. Piers fees are going up 12 ½%, and Piers are totally self-funded. The 3 budgets combined give us a total income of \$719,930.46. He then went over some of the expense items, noting among other things that insurance is a big expense, now that we are fully covered for virtually everything; legal costs will go up, in part due to the beach project; repairs and maintenance are up; the Town Manager and Administrator will be getting raises; the new minimum wage law means that beach attendant costs will be rising; and we are looking at potential incentive bonuses for our 2 salaried employees. This all adds up to an operating budget \$600,566. When the capital improvements, including the shoreline erosion project, are added in the total expenses come to \$719,930.46. The result is a balanced budget. In response to some questions, Governor Breeden noted that the Caper costs \$11,000 after revenues, and that our beach project loan will be for 15 years at 4.2% with no collateral.

He and Governor Szczytko noted that the Annual Meeting will be January 14, 2020 and that anyone with questions or concerns can talk to the Board members before then.

**There was a break from 7:50 P.M. until 8 P.M.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Town Manager** Ryan Anderson reported on the following: We have satisfied 2 outstanding Vegetation Management Plans resulting from putting in the Main Beach wall and walkway. Inspection is pending the planting of 18 native shrubs and 1 native tree. There were also 33 native shrubs in the 100 foot buffer zone. There is ongoing maintenance of the sand below the stairs at the main Beach, as it washes out after rainstorms. The Beach Attendants were done after Labor Day and the swim buoys were removed. Mosquito spraying season is over with evening air temperatures below 60 degrees. He met with the PDK horticulturist regarding continuing work on the phragmites at Lake Claire and Little Magothy Beach. It will take both mechanical and chemical efforts, as well as goats and a landscaping crew to deal with bushkiller at 1040 Lake Claire Drive. The CCC continues to pull garlic mustard on a regular basis.

The lower end of Deep Creek parking lot will be repaved, possibly next month or in the spring. There will be a Piers work day on November 16. Water will be shut off and water lines winterized on November 25 and 26. The portapots will be removed on November 13. The Little Magothy Pier gate has been repaired.

The Clubhouse bathrooms passed building inspection in August. Replacing the entrance sign on Cape St. Claire Road is being worked on. Cape Clean Up on July 26 and 27 went well. We are starting with a new, and larger, company to clean the Clubhouse, on November 1.

The SCBD audit is completed and filed with the county auditor. All of our property taxes were paid in September. We received our share from the Business Lot Owners' Association and the Cape Pool. The county has a step pool project at Lake Claire Drive in the works. Roads continue to be patched in designated areas. We are coordinating with Atlantis in an effort to remove bamboo behind Southview and Chestnut Tree.

There have been the usual covenant issues: parking, yards, potholes, and drainage, along with some setback issues. There are still complaints coming in about the chip and tar and slurry seal road repairs. He has directed them to County Roads and Constituent Services.

There is a living shoreline workshop on October 24

We are losing our lead security officer on November 1 due to his retirement.

We are looking ahead to trick or treating at the shopping center and Halloween Happenings.

Ryan's capstone project for his Watershed Steward certification will be cleaning leaves and debris from 1.6 miles of curb and storm drains along Chestnut Tree and Blue Ridge, on the morning of November 23, with a rain date of December 7. He is looking for 10 or so volunteers to help.

This led to some discussion of dummy storm drains and how they work – or don't. Ryan said the county can vacuum them out after heavy rains.

## **Beach Restoration Project**

Governor Breeden said we are winding down the permitting process. He then went on to discuss the history of the project and the hiring of contractors, noting that we have spent \$205,000 over 5 budget years. Sites 1 and 2 (Main Beach and Lake Claire) are our priorities and letters have been sent to lot owners in the affected areas.

We will be building a large above-water breakwater by the Little Magothy inlet, re-grading the sand, and planting salt marsh plants. Further down, there will be an underwater cobble to break wave action, and at the far end there will be a small above-water hook jetty. We will be getting replenishment sand from the Little Magothy River Association's (LMRA) dredging.

He mentioned our \$298,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the \$25,000 we got in the recent bond bill. We have a \$650,000 loan in the works with BB&T. This will require legislation in the County Council and the County Executive's signature, as any loan must be approved by the county. Our current estimate for the Main Beach work is \$938,000.

We are applying for a \$50,000 grant from Fish and Wildlife to use for the work at site 2 (Lake Claire). A local resident is helping us with this. The work there will consist of oyster reef balls and upside down trees off of the beach to break up waves, prevent erosion, and provide fish habitat. We will use the Lake Claire boat pier, with batten boards in the mud slips to keep the sand in place on the beach.

The projected timeline for Main Beach work is 6 to 8 weeks in February and May 2020.

As far as paying for the work at Lake Claire, in kind donations can be used, along with any money left over from the Main Beach work. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Biohabitats are handing things there. We are still looking for grants and bond bill money, and we are asking for \$250,000 in this year's bond bill. We will be looking for letters of support from Cape organizations and residents. We are meeting with concerned residents and MDE in the next few weeks.

Governor Breeden noted that it is not often that the county Council rejects loan applications from an SCBD.

The LMRA is in favor of the jetty and giving us their sand. We would pay the LMRA permit fees in exchange for their sand. We need permits to make it happen and are looking at getting 5-year permits. Sand will coming into the Main Beach by barge instead of trucks to reduce costs.

We have the best of the best working for us.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Governor Szczytko noted that our April Quarterly Meeting conflicts with the primary election day on April 28 and we need a motion to change the date. Jane Barss moved that the meeting date be moved to April 21. The motion was seconded by Phil Ourisson and passed unanimously.

Governor Breeden said that the quarterly meeting of the Broadneck Council of Communities will be Thursday at 7:30, featuring County Council members Fiedler and Bagnall along with Senator Reilly and possibly representatives from the Bay Bridge office. There will be a letter available for people to sign

It was noted that shopping center trick or treating will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M., Halloween Happenings will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and the Cape Swap will take place Sunday from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

## **COMMENTS**

Phil Ourisson noted that all of the plants at the recent plant sale were sold. The CCC Harvest Bash is on November 1 from 7 to 10 P.M., with tickets available on the website for \$25. The price will go up to \$35 on the first.

Ron Malfi commented on dogs on the beach pooping and peeing and running loose. He does not like taking his children there as he considers it unsanitary. He wants to look into banning dogs from the beach in the summer. Jane Barss added similar comments.

Governor Breeden pointed out that complaints need to be dealt with at the time, either through the Board or the police, and noted that the larger community wants dogs allowed in the park and on the beach. He also added that there is no point in creating rules that cannot be enforced and said there have been no complaints this year. He said that the Town Manager can put the current policy in the Caper.

Phil Ourisson also brought up the issue of all the loose cats in the Cape.

Jane Barss said that sometimes people holding weddings on the overlook think they can ask others to leave the beach. It was pointed out that they can't and that, furthermore, they are limited to a 30 minute ceremony.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Bob Bishop moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ron Malfi and passed unanimously. The October 22 Quarterly Meeting of the Cape St. Claire Improvement Association was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Governors Breeden, Fairchild, Lamb, Layman, Macindoe, Roche, Schmidt, and Szczytko were present, as was Town Manager Anderson. Governor Zadera was absent.