

Minutes of SBPOA Regular membership Meeting
April 16, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jack Whitney at 10:00 AM and all stood to pledge allegiance to the Flag. Present for the Executive Board were Andrea Lapinski, Kent Stephan, Tony Caputo, Lora Caputo and Linda Whitney. Absent was Betsi Baker. Approximately 30 SBPOA members were present (see attached attendance sign-in sheet).

2. Presentations by the candidates for Town Council followed. Mayor Voveris introduced the candidates present at the meeting and gave a background for the missing candidate, Don Boteler. The first candidate to speak was Sue Calloway. She was followed by Sharon Polansky and finally by Tim Shaw. They presented their qualifications. Three Council positions are open this year. There are 4 candidates. Since the Mayor is unopposed, there will be no election for her open position. Full resumes for the candidates will be sent out in the Zephyr. The election will be held on May 28th, 2016.

3. The minutes for the last SBPOA General Meeting held on November 21, 2015 is posted on the website. There were no comments or corrections and it was approved by vote.

Dan Cowell told the group he had to leave the meeting and asked if SBPOA would donate to the BB FD this year. He was advised it is on the agenda and he would be advised of the decision late.

4. Tony Caputo presented the 2015 financial accounting report, which indicated all final revenues and expenses for 2015. An independent CPA reviewed the tax preparation made by Tony Caputo and taxes have been filed. Tony also showed the up-to-date 2016 revenues and expenses. This indicates the Association is in sound financial condition at this time. It was noted that budget revisions were necessary because expenses and revenues for the Directory were not in the original budget. It was only decided later to take on this extra effort. Also there was no provision in the budget to spend more than \$2100 for merchandise regardless of the value of sales made. This needs to be changed and allow for apparel expenditures to be raised provided sales meet certain criteria. Both are operating in the black and are not causing cash short falls as of this time. The spreadsheets for both years were reviewed with the members present and questions were answered.

5. The apparel report was given. Dianna Cowell and Celeste Speer were not present, but merchandise was on display and was available for purchase at the meeting. A suggestion was made that children sizes should be provided. This is being planned. Apparel is available for purchase at McCabe's and also on line. There will be sales also at the Bull Roast. The product is good quality and prices are low but some modest profits are projected for later this year.

6. Lora Caputo gave the Neighborhood Walkers report. This has been a good winter with few water main breaks (2 were reported). The last Walkers luncheon is scheduled for April 30. Lora has done a wonderful job managing this vital program for our community. Lora reported there are 805 members of SBPOA at this time

7. Betsi Baker is managing the Directory publication. She was not present but members were advised that her staff had done an excellent job. The sales of advertisements have been successful (Ed Nazarian was the major contributor) and the three-year directory books are being printed. Lora Caputo compiled names and addresses from mailed-in membership applications. She and her team made/sent over 400 calls and emails to clarify names, telephone numbers, etc. Copies of the Directory will be available to all homeowners (even if not a member of SBPOA). Extra copies can be purchased for \$5.00.

8. Linda Whitney reported on Bull Roast plans. The event will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 beginning at 4:00PM at Town Hall. Dan Cowell has arranged again for us to use tables from the Bethany Beach Fire Department. The Caterer will be Hockers (pulled pork, grilled chicken and hot dogs plus sides, salads and pie for dessert), Beach Liquors is again donating beverages (Thanks Kappes Family) and the music will be by Tom Godfrey. Reservations will be \$10 per member (max of 2/member) and guests will be charged \$25/adult and \$10/child. A maximum of 240 tickets will be available on a first come first serve basis.

9. President Whitney announced we need a volunteer to take over the Nominating committee for the elections to be held at the Bull Roast. There is at least one position open this year. There were no volunteers from the floor. SBPOA will send out an announcement asking for a volunteer.

10. President Whitney reported on other substantial efforts also being undertaken by SBPOA.

a. Christo Andonyadis is now managing the SBPOA share-point web site. He has developed an on line membership application form, a PayPal method to make payments, and we will test this system for the Bull Roast this year. It promises to help ease the problems of manually entering all the information and it is set up in a secure manner. We propose to set aside some funds in the 2016 Budget to further develop the system.

b. SBPOA had IRS approval as a 501(4)(c) non-profit organization in 1988. However, it has filed taxes as a HOA since then. Efforts are now underway to see if there is a way to reverse this and re-gain the non-profit tax-free status previously recognized by IRS. Additional budget funds are being requested for this.

c. It was proposed to set aside \$25,000 (of existing reserve funds) as an emergency reserve fund for SBPOA. These funds are now available to SBPOA from previous year surpluses. The budget number for this reserve fund is not based on any analytical calculation, but all Board Members felt this was a good thing since we have never done this in the past. The articles of incorporation place SBPOA in a responsible position for liabilities of all volunteers and Board members. There are at least 50 walkers and SBPOA could have up to 100 volunteers at any given time. Although we have liability insurance to help defray potential cost/obligations, it is not certain that the organization could not have to cover some costs in the event of an emergency or a legal action against SBPOA or a volunteer member of SBPOA. It was agreed by the members present that establishment of an emergency reserve fund was a reasonable step to take and supported the concept. We will include this in our revised budget for 2016.

d. SBPOA stated there was a need for a good sound system at the Bull Roasts and was contemplating purchasing a system and donating it to the Town. It was suggested that the Town did not need a portable sound system and that SBPOA could consider renting sound systems for the Bull Roast or find a more reasonably priced sound system for SBPOA to use at the Bull Roasts. It was pointed out that in the past, the constrained SBPOA budget did not always allow the rental of suitable sound amplification equipment. A couple members present stated they had experience with portable systems and one portable model recommended (Passport Fender) was battery operated and would cost approximately \$850. SBPOA will look into this and other options available.

e. A discussion of other possible gift opportunities for this year followed. These include, Fire Department (\$1000 was committed at the meeting for this year), beach access, Town special projects such as SLR study, CWQ studies, CIB, CEC, etc. This had been discussed with the Mayor, and the only request was that if anything was done, it be for unfunded projects. It was pointed out that CEC was fully funded by the Town. Many members stated they did not think SBPOA should donate all extra/excess funds and should build up the reserve fund for emergencies.

f. The new budget was discussed at length. This is necessary since the apparel sales and directory were not included in the initial 2016 budget revenues or expenses when it was prepared. All comments from the members present seemed to agree that an emergency reserve would be good to have. A suggestion was made that the budget be updated later in the year and that other donations be considered at the

end of the year if excess funds were going to be taxed (assuming the non-profit status is not regained by then). All agreed that \$1000 should be donated to the Fire Department. Other helpful suggestions for the new budget were discussed. The members present expressed their feeling that the Executive Committee had the ability to make the necessary revisions to the 2016 budget (without them) to continue operations and asked that the budget changes be reported to the Membership at the Bull Roast meeting in June.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Sign-in Sheet