South Bethany Property Owners Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

10:00 am, October 8, 2016

SBPOA Executive Board Members present: Jack Whitney, Sharon Polansky, Jane Vandell, Kent Stephan, and Tim Saxton

Absent Member: Lora Caputo

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am and those present said the pledge of Allegiance.
2. Memorial Gift
   1. Jack Whitney advised the members present that The Board recommended a memorial gift of $500 on behalf of Tony Caputo to the Tunnel Cancer Center. This was agreed by the membership and it was suggested that it be earmarked if desired by the family.
3. Announcement – Jack Whitney advised that the Board had agreed to contribute $200 to the Town and Women’s Club for fall flowers to be planted by the Women’s club.
4. Confirmation of New Treasurer
   1. Jack Whitney advised that the Board had selected Tim Saxton as the new Treasurer to replace Tony Caputo. However, Article VI of the Bylaws required this be confirmed by the membership
   2. A vote was taken and the membership confirmed the appointment of Tim.
   3. Tim reported that the financial strength of the Association is strong. A view of the accounting spreadsheet was shown which indicated the bank balance now exceeds $50,000 but other association expenses are expected this year. A drat budget for 2017 will be sent to members for review at a later date.
5. Proposed Membership Dues – Jack Whitney advised that the Board recommended the membership dues be maintained at $25 per member household. A vote was taken and the membership agreed with the proposal. The 2017 Dues will be $25.00.

Membership applications will be sent out after the thanksgiving holiday this year.

1. A report on apparel sales was given and new apparel products were displayed. Diana Cowell came to the meeting lat er and reiterated the success of her committee and the sales made. Her costs this year have been $3213 and revenues have been $4300. Additionally, she has stock valued at $2401. She has done a great job. She thanked McCabe’s for their support and assistance with sales.
2. A report for the Neighborhood Watch was given. The members were advised that all streets are being walked and some walkers have doubled up and are walking more than one street. However, there remains a need to get additional volunteers. There was discussion about the Walkers luncheons and it was decided to keep the current 2 lunches. Also, Members were advised that the Executive Committee did not think it was necessarily a good idea to give free membership for Walkers. It was felt that membership of the Association should be kept separate from volunteering for Association activities.
3. Sharon Polansky discussed communications efforts this year and advised her intent to enhance these. She also advised that she would assist with preparation of Council reports this year.
4. Membership – Jack Whitney announced that Christo Andonyadis will continue to assist with membership issues and will assist with the preparation and maintenance of the membership roles and information logs.
5. Challenges – Jack Whitney discussed the needs for volunteers and the expected positions that could be open in June.
   1. Joe Mormando has agreed to chair the Bull Roast Committee. With dropping attendance, the question was raised if the Bull Roast date should be changed to early September when more members could attend. The Executive Board will discuss this.
   2. Lora Caputo has advised that she will not be the chair for the Neighborhood Watch next year. A new volunteer is needed for this important activity.
   3. Tim Saxton has advised that he will not be available next year for the Treasurer position. A new volunteer is needed or the efforts must be contracted to an outside person or accounting firm.
6. Options to maintain the Association operations include but are not limited to reduction or elimination of efforts and programs, and/or contracting outside persons to perform these. The Board will consider these and other options in the future when definitive challenges are identified. The Board requested the membership to identify volunteers who can assist to maintain the level of service to our community.
7. Kent Stephan Proposals
   1. Kent identified a problem that he and others have observed at the Town Council level where FOIA and the Charter were not followed. He does not feel it is wise to go to the State Attorney General or the newspapers when issues are identified. He would like SBPOA to set aside funds for legal assistance if this is necessary in the future. Although it was not clear about how legal council would benefit SBPOA in this circumstance, the Board said it would consider a line item in the 2017 Budget for general legal services – to be used if deemed necessary by the Board. A statement was made that the Town has normally always tried to be transparent but SBPOA oversight and suggestions for Council activities is important.
   2. Kent explained that Eric Tsavdar wrote a song about South Bethany in 2015 at the request of the former Mayor and Kent. He explained the author has not been paid, and he would like SBPOA to pay for and sponsor a concert in the Town Hall area in the spring so the song could be played for the Town to hear. He recommended the musicians be paid $150 each and the cost would be just over $1050 for a 1.5-hour concert. Much discussion ensued. Among other suggestions, it was noted that that the Town could consider doing a summer concert as part of their summer program (like the movies on the beach) for persons in South Bethany. There was also discussion about if SBPPOA should pay for this or if the Town should include it within the funding they have available for summer entertainment in South Bethany. A comment was made that SBPOA should not have to pay this cost and it was a lot of burden to put on the members.

No answers were concluded. Kent was asked to discuss this with Carol Stevenson and see if her Committee was interested in this as a summer activity.

It was noted that the song is copyrighted and adoption of a song about South Bethany should be a function for the Town Council, not SBPOA. Regardless, the Executive Committee will consider the response from the Town and other considerations later this year.

Note: Kent Stephan had numerous comments but did not put them in a form we could include in the minutes. They are attached for information but are not included as part of the minutes.

1. Final Announcements
   1. A Tour of Georgetown by the Historic Society is being held next week and members are encouraged to attend
   2. Sussex County is beginning work on the Comprehensive Plan and Members are strongly encouraged to go the their website ([www.sussexplan.com](http://www.sussexplan.com)) and take the survey (after thinking about the services that we do not now get or are inadequate and that we need from the County in the future).
2. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Kent Stephan’s comments dated October 11, 2016:

Kent Stephan’s Comments on Section 12 of the Proposed Minutes

Paragraph a.

The fact that two former Council Members supported the idea was not mentioned.

On the other hand, you presented your unsupported opinion that it is not clear how the proposal would help the SBPOA. As the SBPOA President, I would have expected you to consider the benefit to homeowners.

Since the September/October meeting is held to set the budget for the next year, the Minutes should reflect that no budget vote was taken.

Paragraph b.

Stating that I proposed to put on a concert to pay off Eric Tsavdar is maliciously inaccurate. I take my fiduciary responsibilities seriously. Midway through the discussion I did bring up the fact that he had written the song gratis and owned it. It was done to help explain why I had chosen his band, if a concert were held.

You did not include your statement that the SBPOA should not be in the “summer entertainment business”. (Apparently, the Bull Roast is not entertaining enough to be excluded by you.)

You did not mention that, when I asked whether the Membership supported including the song in the budget, you said the meeting was only to generate opinions. Again, this is critical, since the purpose of the meeting was to set the budget.

By the way, please explain why, in my capacity as an SBPOA officer, I should approach Carol Stevenson about something you will not allow the SBPOA to pursue.