

MINUTES - WPOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
March 26, 2016

Call to Order:

President Jeff Lockhart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Jeff thanked Assure Property Care for providing breakfast for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the October 10, 2015 Membership Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report, given by Terry Ruggles on behalf of Ron Harman, showed a balance of \$72,113.41, which includes \$43,415.15 in checking and \$28,698.26 in CDs.

Membership Report:

Bob Powers reported that there were 378 paid members as of this morning for 2016. Bob reminded the members that dues are annual, based on the calendar year. Bob also mentioned problems with access to the website and suggested members contact him with any continuing issues.

Guest Speakers:

a. Fire Chief Rich Galganski reviewed all the fire/EMS calls during 2015. Rich also recommended that owners take the following protective measures: 1) since all smoke detectors (even hardwired) have a finite life, which is stated on the device, owners should check annually and replace as needed; 2) recommended (but not required) to have working fire extinguisher on each floor; 3) drain water lines and shut water off before winter; 4) fire code requires that house number be visible from the road, so get reflective house number sign; 5) clear brush near house, do not landscape around fire hydrants, and do not erect any fencing or other structure around hydrants; 6) have elevators serviced annually; 7) do not store any gasoline or propane inside the house; 8) mechanical rooms are not meant for storage and the code requires 3 ft. clearance around air handlers, water heaters, and electrical panels.

b. Paula Pyzik, also from Corolla Fire and Rescue, reported on three serious pool accidents involving young children, and recommended that owners post signs regarding pool safety. Paula mentioned that reflective house signs can be ordered through the Fire Department for \$15.

c. Sheriff Deputy Steve Kuch stated that there had been less crime in Whalehead this past year, and that there had been just one arrest for breaking and entering. Deputy Kuch also mentioned that during the winter, the Sheriff's office cannot know if a car in a driveway or people in a house belong there. They welcome calls from concerned owners about anything that looks suspicious. He stated that the number to call for 24-hour non-emergency dispatch is 453- 232-2216 or call 911 for emergency.

d. Laurie LoCicero, Asst. Planning Director for Currituck County, mentioned the following:

- 1) The Corolla Greenway project, which involves building of the bike/walking path from Albacore Street to the area across from Harris Teeter, should be finished early May. Long term goal is have to the multi-use path run from the Dare County line to end of the paved road north of Ocean Hill.
- 2) Laurie stated that there is funding for the Mid-County Bridge in the 2019 budget to begin construction, utility movement and land acquisition for what should be a 5-6 year project. (There are rumors that funding may come sooner.) NCDOT has bought land for the eastern terminus just south of Herring Street (which can be seen on County website.)
- 3) Currituck County is working on its Land Use Plan update, including goals, action items and policies, which was last done in 2006. The county plans to use electronic surveys to distribute information and then community meetings to solicit public input.
- 4) The county recently received a matching grant from NCDOT for an overall pedestrian plan for both beach area and mainland.

e. Eric Weatherly, County Engineer, stated that the drainage system is working extremely well. Eric mentioned that there was some money left from the last construction phase which was being used to add piping to three areas (Barracuda, Mackerel, and Marlin) which previously had just drainage basins. Now, the water in those three areas will be redirected to pumping stations. Eric stated that about 12 inches of rain fell in one week last fall, and all was gone the next morning except on Bonito Street. Although Bonito is a state responsibility, it does not look like NC will ever do anything to improve drainage on that street. If WPOA wants to look into, he will assist.

Eric mentioned that the Drainage Advisory Board needs volunteers, since terms of four of the five members are up. Eric said that there are no plans for a public sewer system in the area due to cost.

Old Business:

a. Drainage – Dan Clements mentioned county’s new turquoise signs, and stated that the Drainage District is working with the county to coordinate walkway signs with county’s new look. The District is also working on adding one bench and one bike rack at two pilot streets.

b. Maintenance Service District – Jack Riggle stated that contact information for Lighthouse Resort Services (roll out/roll back) and Bay Disposal (trash and recycling pick-up) can be found on the WPOA website (WPOA.org.) Jack also stated that the Service District Advisory Board needs volunteers to serve as members. He stated that most of the work has been done, with oversight being the ongoing responsibility of the District.

c. Grounds Committee – Whalehead entrance signs are being maintained and landscaped.

New Business:

a. Email service – Terry Ruggles explained recent email server problem. Terry and Bob will resubmit all names and email addresses to server. Please notify Bob of any new email address.

b. Support for SEALS and Junior Lifeguard – WPOA President Jeff Lockhart delivered the \$2000 contribution that the Board voted on in January. Sylvia Wolf of Corolla Lifesaving Association–thanked WPOA for support over many years. They served about 500 kids last summer. Sylvia will get pamphlets to WPOA to put into houses.

c. Jeff Lockhart delivered a donation of \$500 to Rich Galganski for the Fire Department.

Items from the floor:

a. Rope Park – Rich Galganski explained that what has been built near Ocean Hill is a Rope Park (not an amusement park.) There will be poles as high as 60 feet high, which will likely be visible from Route 12. He has heard no negative comments about the similar site in Nags Head.

b. Dune management – a member asked if WPOA could help encourage ocean front owners to better maintain the dunes. Problems arise on vacant lots when guests start cutting through the dunes, causing serious dune breaches. Laurie LoCicero mentioned that Currituck County has grants available to plant dune grasses. WPOA will look into making signs or refrigerator magnets to publicize the issue.

c. Flood Zones – Per Laurie, there new Flood Zone maps are being redrawn, based on better modeling and better review of historical data. FEMA staff members plan to visit Currituck County on April 21 and 28 to get input. The County’s GIS website shows current and proposed maps. New zones will likely take effect in 2017, and flood insurances rates should drop.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Shawn C. Stringer, Secretary