

## WPOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2017

### Call to Order:

President Jeff Lockhart, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Jeff expressed gratitude to Assure for providing breakfast.

### Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 26, 2016 Membership Meeting were approved by the members.

### Treasurer's Report:

Ron Harman could not be here unexpectedly but report will be attached later. Ron's report submitted by email showed a balance of \$71,448.94, which includes \$27,995.57 in checking and \$43,453.37 in CDs.

### Membership Report:

Bob Powers reported that there are 114 members plus those that paid at the meeting. Seven new members joined today. Bob said he is close to finishing the online directory and is also updating the paper membership directory. Bob asked members to update email addresses.

### Guest Speaker:

a. Deputy Terrence Sutton for Sheriff's Office stated that from last year into this year was a relatively good year. There was only one burglary reported, that being at 870 Lighthouse Drive where a number of TVs were stolen. The Sheriff recovered TVs, but was unable to easily connect them to a particular house. Deputy Sutton requested that owners take pictures of or write down serial numbers of all valuable equipment so they have proof of ownership of stolen property.

b. Matt Hewes from Corolla Life Saving Association spoke about SEALS program. Participation is about 30-60 kids per week. Topics include ocean safety, physical fitness and marine life. CLSA also offers sessions for parents, mostly on rip current safety. They hand out postcards on the beach to families who may be interested, and are working with the county to advertise the program. Two-hour minicamps are given on Thursdays from 10am to noon during the season, starting on June 15. Their website is [corollalifesaving.org](http://corollalifesaving.org). The WPOA board recommended a donation of \$2,000.00 to the SEALS program, and the membership approved.

c. Fire Chief Rich Galganski was unable to attend, so Tim Bostaph reported in his place. Tim stated that Rick has been fire chief for about ten years and is retiring this summer. Tim recommended that owners check batteries in smoke detectors and also check age of devices, which have a limited life span about 8 years. As they fail, they may go off and cause a false alarm. Tim reported on a fire in Pine Island caused by mulch igniting the bulkhead. Tim noted that fresh mulch can combust, so it should be kept away from the house and other structures. Tim also suggested that owners have outside outlets inspected routinely as many fires start outside the house.

Tim reported that volunteer firefighter numbers have dropped from 44 to 37 and it has become more and more difficult to find volunteers for Corolla. The average age is 66 and two are over 80. If volunteer numbers would drop to 28, then our area would get worst possible insurance rating. That is why need to have paid permanent staff at the firehouse. It takes 15-20 minutes to get a volunteer coming from his or her home onto the scene versus one minute for a firefighter at the station. Under new county policy, EMT's and firefighters will be cross trained.

More than 4000 letters were sent to owners in Corolla. There were over 1300 responses and 93% said yes to the Fire Service District at a maximum tax rate of 4 cents per \$100. A member asked if escalating retirement and benefit costs had been taken into account in determining the tax rate, and Tim

answered affirmatively. Tim also mentioned that the WPOA board yesterday voted to ask the county to establish an advisory board and WPOA will seek to be represented on the board.

Tim also mentioned that the fire department will make house number signs for \$21.35. The owner needs to provide the post. These signs are very helpful in finding house in emergency.

**Old Business:**

a. Drainage District Report – new chair of the Drainage Advisory Board Lee Foreman entire board changed due to expiration of terms. The board is required to publish on the county website all of the draft and final minutes of their meetings. Lee’s first meeting dealt with complaints from last fall storms. The next board meeting will be May 12 so direct any issues to Lee before then. The board voted to hire Moffat & Nichol to do complete survey of drainage system and give detailed proposal of what enhancements would benefit current system along with costs. They are required to report back in September so we should have information by fall WPOA meeting.

b. Maintenance Service District – Jack Riggle reported that we changed contractors in January back to Bay Disposal. If there are items too big for cans, owner must call for a special pickup.

c. Grounds Committee – Tim Bostaph reported that the committee is working on moving the northernmost Whalehead sign on Shad and that the walkway on Albacore Street has been finished.

**New Business:**

The Board recommended a \$500 donation to Corolla Fire and Rescue and it was approved by the members.

**Items from the floor:**

a. Update on bridge - Dennis Umberger attended recent Corolla Civic Association meeting. Dennis reported that the Southern Environmental Law Firm is planning to fight the bridge based on environmental concerns and asserts that the Environmental Impact Statement is out of date. Dennis also mentioned concerns that the argument that the bridge is necessary for traffic alleviation is not based on current data.

b. A member voiced concern about vendors who rent chairs and umbrellas leaving items on the dunes. Those vendors are regulated by the county. There is no apparent limit on quantity of vendors.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Shawn C. Stringer  
Secretary