

Winter 2015



# Drum Point Light

## Drum Point Property Owners' Association

[www.dppoa.org](http://www.dppoa.org)

[office@dppoa.org](mailto:office@dppoa.org)

410-326-6148

### October Storm Damages Drum Point Beach

Our community beach suffered badly during the last storm - a northeaster that lasted a couple of days. In essence, our shoreline has retreated several feet and undercut and broke up portions of the asphalt surface of our parking lot and stripped the underlying sand down to the clay layers underneath. The damage extended much further to the south and removed significant amounts of the adjacent Drum Point shoreline and sand. Much of that sand was moved down to block the mouth of the Drum Point Lake forming a temporary dam that raised the level of the lake so that it overflowed across our parking lot and our beach.

Each year we are often faced with similar kinds of damage that is later repaired during the summer months as wind directions and the types of waves generated by the winds brings sands from offshore and rebuilds the beach. Fortunately, the temporary dam blocking the lake was eventually eroded down so that the lake level fell. If the level had con-



**Erosion of beach and exposure of asphalt**

See Beach Erosion, Page 3

### **YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!!!!**

The Board of Directors is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. This Committee functions to find our community leaders for the next term, which begins in July of 2016. Anyone wishing to serve on the Nominating Committee or on the Association Board must be current with all fees and assessments. The Board of Directors has three three-year slots which will need to be filled.

Duties of the Nominating Committee include talking with friends and neighbors about choosing to serve on the Board and announcing the slate of candidates during the March quarterly meeting. The final task of the Committee is the processing and mailing of the ballots. The Association Manager, will provide contact information and help in the processing of the ballots. Once the ballots have been mailed, the job of the Committee is finished.

If you are interested in helping with this important task, or if you would be interested in running for the Board of Directors, please contact the office at 410-326-6148 or by e-mail at [office@dppoa.org](mailto:office@dppoa.org).

# President's Column

## Gary Heal, President

### DPPOA Board of Directors



As I write this, early predictions of a harsh winter do not seem to be materializing. I personally have my fingers crossed that we do not have more snow than normal, since an abundance of snow could impact our plans to pave next summer. Of course, we will do everything we can to make sure your roads are safe to travel during any snow event. Please read the article on snow removal in this newsletter.

Speaking of storms, the one that blew through in early October caused some damage to our beach as well as the Bay shoreline in general. As a result, we decided to close the beach because the damage caused unsafe conditions there. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the beach will be open again although high tides are not working in our favor. We had to procure permits from the County to clean up and repair the beach and were lucky to have Rob Randall come forward to do the work needed at a very favorable rate. Thanks to him for his support of our community.

In addition, your Board of Directors is working on a few things that you should be aware of:

First and foremost, a decision on the Special Tax District (STD) which expires June 30, 2016, is forthcoming. The Planning Committee met and has made a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Board will consider those recommendations and work with the County to craft a new STD. You should look for information to be disseminated to the community through General Meetings, Special Meetings, the Web site and this newsletter.

Second, the Roads Committee met and recommended to the Board that we continue with the plan to re-pave up to a mile of our 15.1 miles of road each year. The recommendation for this year is to plan on the re-paving of .94 miles of road. The Board approved this plan, and that will help the Finance Committee in its crafting of the 2016-17 fiscal year budget.

Third, as referenced in the beach article and above, we had storm damage to our beach. We are considering what, if any long term actions might be needed. We are in the planning stages at this time and will consider any input.

*Gary Heal*

## DPPOA Website

The Drum Point Property Owners' Association website ([www.dppoa.org](http://www.dppoa.org)) is a great way to find out what is happening in the Drum Point community and with the Association. Important announcements such as updates on the temporary closing of the beach and the time and location of Board meetings are posted. One can read the minutes of Board and Membership meetings and view videos of those meetings. Corporate documents, such as Drum Point Covenants and Association By-laws, are available by clicking on the links at the top of the home page.

One can also access the websites of other important groups and areas of interest, such as the Drum Point Club, the Calvert County Sheriff's desk, the Calvert County Government, and the Calvert County Tourism page.

The most recent addition to the website is a running gallery of photos. Check out the picture of the original Barreda House and the salt water pool, once located on the grounds of the Drum Point Club. If you have any photos you think might be of interest to the community, forward a digital copy to Rhea at [office@dppoa.org](mailto:office@dppoa.org).

## Beach Erosion ...Continued from front page

tinued to be high, it might have eventually formed a new outlet channel across our beach.

This is nothing new to us or the Drum Point Club. This portion of the beach has retreated progressively since we acquired it from the Drum Point Club. So what is to be done? In the words of that old Pogo comic strip, "we have met the enemy and they are us." We live on a stretch of linear shoreline that runs south from Little Cove Point along the Chesapeake Ranch Estates and finally to our community and Drum Point. To maintain sand beaches, we need sand. That sand comes from erosion of the shoreline to the north. This is dominantly from the Calvert Cliffs which contain little sand. Although erosion of the cliffs has been going on for thousands of years, very little sand has been deposited. What little sand there is once maintained a narrow strip along the entire shoreline ending at Drum Point.



**Erosion of beach after October storm**

As the shoreline became developed, individual property owners feared for the steady retreat of their property. Fifty to 75 years ago, the panacea for stopping shoreline retreat was the construction of groins (small jetties) perpendicular to the shore. These were once thought to trap sand to stop shoreline retreat, but did little more than cause further erosion to the adjacent land (in our case to the south). They did trap sand but denied it to the neighboring property. As a result, groins were progressively added to the adjacent shoreline as erosion was transferred to the south. Over time, groins or armor (large rocks) were added until nearly the entire shoreline was lined with them or "protected." The rub for us is that our beach and the Drum Point Club beach are at the end of a conveyor belt that once supplied sand, but has now been intercepted by all those groins that were built in the past. There is no longer any sand except for that which is

washed on shore each summer as part of the natural process.

So what's to be done? The problem is complex, but it makes little sense to transfer our erosion problem to our neighbors. The DPPOA board is wrestling with the problem but has come to the conclusion that jumping to something thought by some to be a simple solution is not the way we wish to go. For now, we are cleaning up the community beach so that residents can once again have access, park cars and walk along the shoreline towards Drum Point. We've included some photos to show you the condition of the beach after the storm.

*Curt Larsen\**

\*Curt Larsen, a member of the DPPOA Board, is a retired coastal geologist with 40+ years of experience studying shore processes.

## Time for Winter Already?

(The following article was published previously, but offers important information)

We can expect that we will have sufficient snow this season which will require plowing. In past years, we have had complaints about the snow plow pushing snow into a driveway that has been shoveled out. Some of these complaints come from people who live on dead-end streets or cul-de-sacs. Others come from owners who have driveways that are perpendicular to the street road surface. In both cases, our snow plow operators make every effort to be as kind as possible in the placement of snow.

For driveways off of streets, it is not possible to keep snow from accumulating at driveway entrances as the roadway is plowed, we simply do not have the money or the time to open up each driveway entrance as the snow plow passes.

For dead end streets and cul-de-sacs, the operators have to determine where to put the snow at the end of their plowing run. Sometimes, especially when plowing at 3:00 a.m., it is difficult to determine where a driveway enters the cul-de-sac or where the road actually dead ends. In these cases we will make every effort to not block anyone in.

The Drum Point Property Owners Association does not budget for or pay for the plowing of driveways. The driveway and the entrance to it are the responsibility of each homeowner.

We appreciate your understanding. Please call the office if a problem arises.



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### **General Membership Meeting**

All meetings will be conducted according to Maryland Code, Corporations and Associations, Title 5, Sub Title 2, section (§) 5-206. which states, If the number of members present at a meeting does not meet the requirements of a quorum, those present may call another meeting to meet quorum requirements. At the additional meeting, the members present in person constitute a quorum.\*

\*Per the DPPOA Attorney - Any and all business of the Association can be discussed at the meeting.

### **General Membership Meeting Agenda**

**10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 5, 2015**

**Drum Point Club**

**Call to Order**

**President's Remarks**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Committee Reports**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Public Comments**

**Adjournment**

The December 5<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting will be held in accordance with the above Maryland Code.