**Board Members Present:** Tony Spakauskas, Jack Andre, Bonnie Blades, Gary Heal, John Rovero, Mike Snapp and Jerry Budnick

**Board Members Not Present:** Vince Barazzone

**Staff Present:** Rhea Webster – Association Manager

**Property Owners and Guests Present:** Cindy Andre, Gina Swartwood and Asha Andreas

**Call to Order:** Tony Spakauskas, President of the Board of Directors for the Drum Point Property Owners' Association (DPPOA), called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He stated that the meeting is being recorded, and Robert’s Rules of Order govern the proceedings. He reminded all present to not speak until recognized by the Chair.

**President’s Remarks:** Tony stated that budget for fiscal year 2018 was approved during the September meeting of the General Membership. He noted that with Libby’s resignation, the Board is without a Vice President and asked for nominations for that position.

**Nomination:** Bonnie Blades nominated Gary Heal to be the new Vice President. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

Tony introduced Gina Swartwood and Asha Andreas, property owners who are considering an appointment to the DPPOA Board, and Cindy Andre who will speak to the Board about the newly reformulated Welcome Committee. He then reminded the group that John Rovero is leaving the area and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his time on the Board.

**Public Comment –** Asha asked if the Board members could introduce themselves.

**Roundtable:** Each Director and Rhea introduced themselves. The following was noted:

**John Rovero** stated the speeding on Rousby Hall Road is worse now that the road has been repaved. Rhea will contact the Sheriff’s office to ask that patrols be increased.

**Jeremy Budnick** stated that he will be selling his house in Drum Point and will no longer be able to serve on the Board. He will remain active until his property has been sold.

**Approval of Minutes:** John Roveromade a motion to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2017 meeting of the Board, previously distributed via e-mail. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

**Office Update:** Rhea Webster reported as follows:

1. Membership-in-good standing is at 71% for the current fiscal year, which is average for this time of year.
2. When the State Highway Administration had Rousby Hall Road (Route 760) repaved, the contractor removed two signs (River View Drive and Johnson Drive). A call was placed to State Highway, and the signs were replaced.
3. Signs that can be purchased directly from Amazon are less expensive and are made of a hard plastic. The extruded metal signs that we use cannot be purchased directly from Amazon. Cost of an extruded street sign from suppliers accessed through Amazon is much higher. Another vendor, Safety Sign, is about the same cost as Vulcan, the current vendor, but the turnaround is much faster so may be used for future orders.
4. An email was sent to the community about the formation of a committee to investigate the feasibility of installing a recreational area (to include cost, desire of the community and possible locations). Two responses, expressing interest, have been received.
5. The permit for the restoration of the foot bridge has not yet been approved.
6. The annual retainer fee for our legal counsel (The Thomas Schild Law Group) is due. After discussion, the Board decided to retain the counsel.

**Action Items:** No Report

**Operational/Roads Committee:** The re-paving work scheduled for the Cove Drive/Mills Creek area has been delayed, and Jeff MacDonald, our Project Manager, is working with the contractor to get the job done as soon as possible. Additional clearing and prepping of the area will have to be done due to the delay. The contractor is now scheduled to start in the coming week, pending the weather.

**Finance Committee:** The balance sheet and profit and loss statements were distributed. Jack Andre, Treasurer for the DPPOA, reported that he and Rhea met with Samantha Stratchko and John Chappelle from the Community Bank of the Chesapeake (CBTC) to discuss the transfer of some or all of the DPPOA accounts to the CBTC. Ms. Stratchko presented a written proposal (copies distributed) regarding fees and FDIC thresholds, and Mr. Chappelle spoke about the acceptance of credit cards for payment of HOA fees (fees are similar to that offered by PNC). Ms. Stratchko will be invited to attend the November meeting of the Board to discuss her proposal.

**Environmental Committee:** Bonnie Blades stated that an article published in the Calvert Recorder stated that seagrasses are returning to the Bay. The particular grass that is growing is called Widgeon Grass. This submerged grass provides habitat to aquatic life and helps filter and clean the water. Jeremy Testa, who works with the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, suggested that anyone who spots theses grasses growing in other areas should contact the Biological Lab.

**Safety Committee:** Gary Heal reported that the right of way on River View Drive is, once again, being rutted by someone who drives their truck off road through the sometimes muddy area. It was suggested that a security camera be strategically placed in the hopes of capturing the license plate of the individual.

Once the permit for the replacement/repair of the footbridge is received, Gary Heal will purchase the supplies needed. After discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion:** Jerry Budnick made a motion to allow Gary Heal to spend up to $3,000 for material for the replacement/repair of the footbridge on Surf Street. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Welcome Committee:** Cindy Andre presented the following update on the newly reformatted Welcome Committee:

1. Local businesses have been contacted, and many have agreed to participate by providing discount coupons, small gifts and other items. Some of the local businesses who are participating include Ace Hardware, Julia and Company Hair Salon, Pepper’s Pet Pantry, Patuxent Wine and Spirits and Maertens Jewelry Store. Small business, service providers may be contacted to ask about their desire to participate.
2. Rhea has drafted a letter of introduction which Cindy can present to these businesses and created a spreadsheet to track who has been contacted and how they will participate.
3. The Solomons Visitors Center has agreed to provide brochures of local sites and attractions.
4. A welcome letter will be sent from the DPPOA office, inviting people to come into the office and provide contact information. The welcome buckets will be hand delivered whenever possible.
5. The cost of each welcome bucket (cellophane wrap, filler paper etc.) will be between $8.00 and $10.00. This amount is within the budget.
6. Cindy will send handwritten thank you notes to the businesses that are supporting Drum Point in this effort.

After discussion, a decision was made to provide the welcome bucket to those new property owners who have purchased property since the beginning of August.

**Old Business:** None scheduled

**New Business:** Karl Bowen, the contractor who removes downed trees for the Association, has been contacted and asked to provide a proposal for a “three-year cutback” of trees and vegetation. While Chris Boyles does as much of the bush hogging and trimming of the rights of way as possible with the available equipment, it is necessary to have someone with larger equipment cut back the vegetation which cannot be handled with our equipment. The cost of this cutback should have been in this year’s DPPOA Budget but was not included. Therefore, the primary source of funding will be the State Highway User Revenue account. After discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion:** Gary Heal made a motion to accept the proposal by Karl Bowen, in the amount of $17,000.00. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Public Comment –** Asha Andreas commented on the need to address some of the littered streets and asked if signage might be considered. While the Board tries to keep signage to a minimum, options will be investigated to combine the cleanup day with the cleanup of Drum Point streets – kind of an adopt-the-street program. Asha said also that she spotted a trash bin in the water, near the Kerman property on Lake Place. Chris Boyles will be asked to remove the bin.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Gary Heal made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.