

**Drum Point Property Owners' Association
General Membership Meeting
Drum Point Club
June 28, 2022
Final**

Board Members present: Mike Snapp, Tony Spakauskas, Jack Andre, Bonnie Blades, Asha Andreas, Gina Swartwood, Maggie Johnson, Maggie Johnson, and Mike Chaconas

Board Members not present:

Staff present: Rhea Webster – Association Manager

Guests: Members of the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department (SVRSFD)

Mike Snapp, President of the Board of Directors for the Drum Point Property Owners' Association (DPPOA), called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. With 48 Association memberships in good standing represented (19 in person, 29 by absentee ballot) a regular quorum was present, and business could be conducted.

Approval of Minutes: Gary Heal made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2022, meeting, distributed at the door and posted to the Association website. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President's Remarks: Mike Snapp introduced Terry Anderson, the President of the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department. Mr. Anderson introduced the following: Jonathan Dalrymple – Fire Chief, Rick Hargrave – Fire Captain, Tom Jones – Deputy Director of General Services, and Joe Ford – Assistant Fire Chief. Mr. Ford made a presentation about the option to relocate the Solomons Fire Station from its present location at the corner of Dowell Road and H. G. Trueman Road to an area in Lusby, which would be more centrally located according to the area's growing population. The following was presented:

- The volunteer squad, formed in 1954, was located in a building that now houses Island Sushi in Solomons. The first call was in 1955, in response to a request for an ambulance.
- With the continued need to obtain additional equipment, there was a need to move the department to its current location. They responded to 1,000 calls the first year, with a membership of 67.
- A substation was built at Little Cove Point Road in 1994 to help address the growing population. Their response area covers approximately 29 square miles. In 2021 their membership roster included 163, and they responded to nearly 4,000 calls.
- With the shifting and growing population center, there is a need to move the fire house to a more centrally located area in order to better serve the community and to maintain a hire ISO rating (Insurance Services Office ratings). This rating helps dictate the cost of insurance premiums for property owners, and is based on a variety of factors, including response time, available equipment, and surrounding population figures.
 - The move of the fire department will not affect insurance premiums in Drum Point, as there are no fire hydrants, other than the three dry hydrants. However, the relocation will decrease the cost of insurance in other areas in Calvert County where fire hydrants are located throughout the community.
 - There is also a need to upgrade the building itself, as the current building does not meet required standards.
- The tentative plan is to combine both the Cove Point substation and the primary department and relocate to the property adjacent to the Ace Hardware store in Lusby.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation, after which Mr. Ford asked for a show of hands of those people who approved of the move to the Lusby Town Center. All present responded with approval.

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Mike thanked the members of the SVRSFD and continued the meeting by thanking Gina Swartwood for volunteering for the past five years, not only by serving on the Board but also by her work on the Welcome Committee, the Finance Committee, and by volunteering to help at the community clean up days, Drum Point Day, and other community events. He then welcomed Susan Rork, who will be replacing Gina.

Mike stated that the Board responds as quickly as possible to the needs of the community and cited the example of the recently repaired boat ramp (rocks that had washed out at the end of the ramp had washed out and were replaced when it became known that there was a problem).

He then reminded all those present that the primary elections are upon us, with early voting expanded in Calvert County.

Committee Reports:

Operational/Roads Committee: Rhea reported the following:

- Chris Franklin, our new Project Manager, is working with local contractors to address 15 areas in need of storm water management control. He is also working with the Soil Conservation Service to obtain any additional permits needed for work in the Critical Area.
- Chris is also in the process of developing the Statement of Work (SOW) for this year's paving. The SOW will be sent to various contractors. An ad will also be placed in the Calvert Recorder asking for proposals and stating that the office should be contacted by anyone wishing to receive the SOW.
- The well rings at Surf Street and Lake Drive were repaired by Grover's Lawnscape.
- Work to address the erosion at the Bay Drive Causeway should begin in the coming weeks, as permits have been approved. Ward's Marine was awarded the contract.

Environmental Committee: Bonnie Blades reported that the Phragmites are under control in most areas, so this year's treatment by Mark Smith (Phragmites Invasive Control) should be minimal.

Mike thanked Ginny Rice for her work to reduce the amount of the invasive English Ivy that grows up trees. This ivy will eventually choke the tree out, and Ginny's committee has worked to "girdle" the ivy so that it dies and can then more easily be removed. Ginny stated that the work will begin again in the fall, once cooler weather is upon us, and the risk of ticks is reduced.

Safety Committee: Maggie Johnson stated that the committee will be meeting soon and will update the go packs and discuss the HAM radio operators and liaison with FEMA when needed.

Finance Committee: The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement were distributed at the door. Jack Andre, Treasurer for the Association, reported as follows:

- Most expense lines for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, are within limits of the budget, with the exception of the cost of oil.

Welcoming Committee: Rhea stated the program continues to be successful, with 142 buckets distributed since the beginning of the program in 2017. Gina, Asha, and Ginny continue their part by assembling the buckets. Ace Hardware and other local businesses continue to donate items for the buckets, thanks to continued efforts by Cindy Andre.

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Planning Committee: Mike reported that efforts to address erosion control at the community beach continue. The following was noted:

- The recently approved Special Tax District included some funding of erosion control construction.
- There has not yet been a decision as to whether the Association will receive any grant funding through the state. Should the Association receive a grant, a request will be made to the Board of County Commissioners to reduce the amount of the Special Tax District by a like amount.
- Permits have been requested through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the removal of the loose asphalt is included in the request. MDE, the Army Corp of Engineers, and Calvert County all weigh in on the approval of any permits.
- A meeting was held with representatives from MDE and Coastline Design (the coastal engineer company responsible for designing a solution). The representative from MDE was of the opinion that the project is worthwhile.

Unfinished Business: Community Beach Erosion – See above under Planning Committee

New Business:

Presentation by Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department: See above

Approval of Budget – FY 2023: The following was noted:

- Jack thanked the members of the committee for their help in crafting the draft budget and stated that the committee worked to reduce expenses where possible.
- A summary budget was included in the summer newsletter, with the full budget available on the website (www.dppoa.org).
- After discussion, ballots to accept the proposed budget were distributed, with the following result: 48 number in favor (19 in person – 29 by absentee ballot).

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting of the membership will be scheduled for September 2022 (date to be determined).