

Summer 2020



Drum Point Light

Drum Point Property Owners' Association

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County Emergency Center Reaches out to Communities

Emergency preparation at the community level is a renewed priority for Calvert County officials. Reaching out to our communities, members of the Calvert County Government Division of Emergency Management Mike Grierson, Emergency Management Director; Kara Buckmaster, Emergency Management Specialist; and Kim Gott, Office Specialist, toured the Drum Point Property Owner's (DPPOA) Emergency Service Center in Lusby on February 21st.

For the past decade the local community's Service Center has served as a focal point for disaster coordination and communication, having emergency auxiliary power, backup radio links to the County, and prepositioned first aid kits and supplies such as stretchers for immediate deployment. Surrounded on three sides by the Bay and its tributaries, the Drum Point peninsula and community pose unique security challenges. The Service Center has also conducted multiple full-scale exercises with participation from the Civil Air Patrol airplanes and Cadets and the Calvert Amateur Radio Association and hosted numerous Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training classes sponsored by the County. The adjacent Drum Point Club beaches and facilities provide outstanding opportunities for live practice sessions to handle mass casualty incidents at the most southern part of the County.

In the meantime, during the Covid19 lockdown, the Association continued to function as normally as possible. Rhea worked from home but came into the office on a regular basis to check mail and perform those tasks that cannot be done from home. Phone messages and email were monitored throughout each week, and interaction with the community and the Board was uninterrupted. When Governor Hogan announced Phase II of the reopening, the Association office also opened but with the precaution that anyone entering wear a mask.



Pictured left to right Peter Holt - Service Center Coordinator, Mike Grierson - County Emergency Management Director, Kim Gott - Office Specialist and Kara Buckmaster - Emergency Management Specialist in the DPPOA "War Room" and backup communications facility, located in the Association office

President's Column

Tony Spakauskas, President DPPOA Board of Directors



Friends and Neighbors, We certainly are living in some unsettled times. Because of the lockdown, isolation, and social distancing required to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, some of us are at home and not going into work. Because of the need to maintain social distancing, some popular community activities have been cancelled. For July 4th, the Solomons Business Association has cancelled the annual fireworks, and the Drum Point Club has cancelled Drum Point Day. So, I guess it's celebrating at home with family and a few friends. Please stay safe, remember to maintain distances and/or wear face coverings.

The Coronavirus restrictions also affected some of our required community governance activities. In April, May and June the DPPOA Board of Directors meetings were held virtually. The March DPPOA General Membership (GM) meeting had to be cancelled. Therefore, the three candidates selected by the Nominating Committee for the positions coming vacant in July could not be presented (Bios of the three candidates can be viewed on the website – www.dppoa.org). In consideration of questions concerning facility cleaning before and after the event, quorum expectations due to the demographics of our usual attendees, social distancing requirements, and possible limitations on group size, the Board made the decision to also cancel the June GM meeting.

With the cancellation of the June meeting, it will not be possible to present the budget to the membership for discussion and a vote, and it will again not be possible to present the candidates for the upcoming vacant Board positions. Similar situations have happened before. We will continue to operate under the existing budget until such time as the proposed budget can be presented for approval, which should be at the September GM Meeting. This is similar to operating under a continuing resolution in government. For the vacant positions, in this kind of situation, the by-laws give me the authority to appoint, with Board concurrence, someone to the Board. As there are three candidates for three positions, I will appoint them, pending a GM vote at the earliest opportunity, likely at the September meeting.

We are home, and as the weather gets warmer, more and more of us will be going outside to enjoy the increasingly beautiful days. I urge us all to be more aware and considerate of each other. When you take your dog for a walk, keep your pet on a leash. Not only does the law require it but some people are afraid of dogs. Carry doggie bags. Pet waste can spread several diseases so please clean up after your dog. I have noticed people walking dogs along beaches and not cleaning up. Please remember, people sit and children play on those beaches. Think of them.

Lately, we have been receiving numerous noise complaints, usually concerning dirt bikes and ATVs. Again, remember the law and think about your neighbors. It is illegal to drive unregistered/unlicensed vehicles on roads or other people's property without permission. So please don't. No one wants to see young people getting into legal trouble just because they want to have some fun. Dirt bikes and ATVs are fun to operate but they are very loud. Think of your neighbors who may just want some peace and quiet. Please use your vehicles where it is legal, safe, and won't disturb others.

I realize all of the above seems to place a lot of concerns, restrictions, and limits on all we will do this summer. The DPPOA governance and operational concerns will be taken care of by the Board to the best of its ability. All we as residents of this small but beautiful community have to bear in mind is consideration of each other, and we will have a great summer. Enjoy the weather, the community, each other, and summertime.

Tony

Invasive Plant Species

The battle against invasive plant species began more than two years ago, and it continues today. The Environmental Committee for the Association, currently led by Bonnie Blades, worked with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), to secure the required permits for the treatment and removal of one of these non-native plants. Phragmites is one of the primary examples of an invasive plant species in Drum Point as well many coastal communities in Maryland. Tony Spakauskas, Jack Andre and Gary Heal worked to map out the areas that were most in need of treatment.

MDE also provided the name of a company authorized to treat these plants. Mark Smith of Phragmites Invasive Control has been in Drum Point twice in the past two years and will be here again this summer to conduct safe, approved treatment that will kill the Phragmites. Once enough time passes and the plants die, the dead canes are removed under the guidance of the Calvert County Critical Area Office. The Vegetation Removal permit, required for the removal of the dead canes, allows two years for natural regrowth to take place. If this does not occur, the Association will replant the affected areas with native plants.

There was speculation that some areas where Phragmites had been treated and removed appeared to be eroding. Mark Smith was contacted, and photos provided by an observant property owner were forwarded to him. According to Mr. Smith, this is not erosion, rather a return of the view of the original shoreline. One can also now see native grasses that may have been there before the removal of the dead canes or that may have begun to take hold again now that the Phragmites are being treated and removed. While Phragmites is considered to be an attractive plant by some, its invasive nature means that it chokes out native plants, both aboveground and aquatic, destroys the habitat of local wildlife, and encroaches into wetlands, altering their hydrology.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

With the June General Membership meeting having been cancelled due to concerns over Coronavirus, a vote for approval of the DPPOA budget is postponed until a meeting can be held, likely in September. Please check the website at www.dppoa.org for announcements concerning scheduling. Absentee ballots will be available in the DPPOA office and must be returned prior to the meeting. Please note that the vote will be conducted in order to approve the Covenant and Mandatory Assessment (MA) portion of the budget only. The Special Tax District (STD) budget was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and cannot be changed. The State Highway User Revenue (SHUR) budget is administered by the County. Both the STD and the SHUR portions of the budget are provided for informational purposes only. The full budget is available at the DPPOA office and can be viewed on the Association website.

| | | STD | SHUR | Covenant FY 21 | MA FY 21 | Total FY 21 |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Income | | 148,971 | 7,000 | 128,707 | 50,732 | 335,410 |
| | Income from Carry-over | | | | | 107,354 |
| | Reserve funds for roof and flooring | | | | | 7,500 |
| | Total Available Funds | | | | | 450,264 |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| General Operating | | | | | | |
| | Total 6000 - General and Administrative | 200 | 100 | 1,150 | 4,700 | 6,150 |
| | Total 6100 - Office Facility | | | 2,910 | 3,190 | 6,100 |
| | Total 6200 - Payroll Expenses | | | 44,673 | 22,236 | 66,909 |
| | Total 6300 - Professional Fees | 4,500 | | 5,000 | | 9,500 |
| | Total 6400 - Taxes and Insurance | | | 350 | 7,580 | 7,930 |
| | Total 6500 - Utilities | | | 3,462 | 2,028 | 5,490 |
| | Total General Operating | 4,700 | 100 | 57,545 | 39,734 | 102,079 |
| Operations and Maintenance | | | | | | |
| | Total 6600 - Maintenance - Non Right of Way | | | 2,550 | 28,700 | 31,250 |
| | Total 6700 - Maintenance - Right of Way | 21,925 | 7,000 | 38,300 | 24,210 | 91,435 |
| | Total Operations and Maintenance | 21,925 | 7,000 | 40,850 | 52,910 | 122,685 |
| Capital Projects | | | | | | |
| | Total 6800 - Capital Improvement Projects | 122,346 | - | 72,654 | 5,000 | 200,000 |
| | Total 6900 - Capital Overhead | | | 25,500 | | 25,500 |
| | Total Capital Projects | 122,346 | - | 98,154 | 5,000 | 225,500 |
| | Total Income | 148,971 | 7,000 | 128,707 | 50,732 | 335,410 |
| | Income from Carry-over | | | | | 107,354 |
| | Reserve funds for roof and flooring | | | | | 7,500 |
| | Total Income including Carryover | | | | | 450,264 |
| | Total Expenses | 148,971 | 7,100 | 196,549 | 97,644 | 450,264 |



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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 - **CANCELLED**

Agenda

7:00 p.m. June 30, 2020

Drum Point Club

Call to Order

President's Remarks

Approval of Minutes

Committee Reports

Old Business

Beach Erosion Options

New Business

Budget

Presentation of Board Candidates

Public Comments

Adjournment