

Summer/Fall 2025

Fruitville Beach Civic Association

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www.fruitvillebeach.com

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YOUR NAME
IS MISSING
See Pg 2 

Message from the President

This summer reminded us just how unforgiving our coast can be. A series of severe wind storms carved away large sections of dune and left several oceanfront lots with significant beach erosion. In many places the driving lane has narrowed, drop-offs have formed, and navigating the beach has become more difficult and unpredictable, especially at higher tides. Please use extra caution when driving, walking, or parking on the beach and be prepared for changing conditions from week to week.

We also saw a stark example of how human negligence can put the wild horses at risk. One mare managed to get her head stuck through a step ladder that had been left unattended, and she was photographed with the ladder around her neck while she tried to nurse her foal (see back cover). She was fortunate to be safely freed, but it could easily have ended very differently. Ladders, beach gear, **trash**, loose rope, and other equipment left outside are real hazards for the horses, particularly curious foals.

I am asking every property owner to treat anything left outdoors as a potential danger to wildlife. Secure or store ladders, chairs, canopies, toys, and construction materials when not in use, and pick up loose items before you leave. If you witness a horse in danger or distress, please call 252-453-3633. They will immediately notify the Corolla Wild Horse Fund and can also dispatch law enforcement if necessary.

Together, we can't control the storms or the tides, but we can control how we care for this community and the animals that share it with us.

Till soon, Eva

FBCA General Membership Annual Meeting
May 24, 2025
Carova Beach Fire Station
Minutes

Present: Eva Casola, Connie Johnson, Neil Casola, Jennifer Early, Bud Nusselt, Tom Hudak, via zoom-Pat Carstater; Absent: Cathie Blanton

Guest Speaker Ben Stikeleather former County Manager; 20 members in attendance plus 12 members via zoom

- Call To Order-----11:00AM and announcements related to facility/protocol
- Introduction of Guest Speaker—Connie Johnson

Ben Stikeleather was introduced by Connie Johnson. He was the Currituck County Manager for 2 years, and prior to that he held government positions for 15 years. I am happy to say that he is now my boss and the General Manager of Corolla Light Resort. He stays on top of all issues in the County. His topic today is about CAMA.

Ben provided an overview of CAMA (Coastal Area Management Administration), permitting functions, land use plans, and water quality. Resulting from questions from the audience, Ben discussed in detail permits for bldg. on frontal dunes, set backs. erosion rate, construction of swales to control water from adjacent sites; pumping water from roads in flooded condition, grass around edge of water an impact on pumping regulations, walkways over dunes, docks over water, the County has no legal requirement to maintain the dune line including handicap accessibility to beach. The Corolla Fire House does have wheelchairs to help handicapped persons.

- Approval of May 26, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes as posted on the website and published in the summer fall 2024 newsletter Motion to Approve Tom Hurley Seconded Dick Morgan, no discussion All In Favor Motion Carried.

- Treasurer's Report

Bud Nusselt presented report as noted below. Bud mentioned that our membership drive was productive. In so far as legal defense funds, those held in our attorney trust account are in the amount of \$5,343.11.

Fruitville Beach Civic Association, Inc.
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
January 1, 2024 ---December 31, 2024

Balance January 1, 2024	\$7,105.63
\$7,105.63	

Receipts

Dues	6,522.85
Interest Earned	0.68
Total	6523.53
13,629.16	

Disbursements

Printing, Postage, Supplies	4,870.35
PO Box	100.00
Website URL	90.68
Mail Merge (1)	49.00
Miscellaneous Bank Fees	36.50
Mail Merge (2)	49.00
Zoom	16.79
FBCA Drop Box	203.88
5 Yr. Website Fee	1019.40
Donations	600.00
Meeting Expense	0.00
Total Disbursements	7035.60

Balance December 31, 2024	\$6,593.56
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Respectfully submitted, Leon Nusselt, Jr. Treasurer

**check number 103 included url and mail merge reimbursements; Check 151 new sequence required by Towne Bank when revisions to account were initiated for changes in FBCA Treasurer

Treasury Report (cont.)

Motion by Dick Morgan, Seconded Lisa Hurley to accept treasurer's report. No Discussion, Motion Carried

Motion by Tom Hudak seconded by Eva Casola to approve treasurers report as official audit. Discussion—few checks are written during the year, and Board Review is less expensive than accountant fee. All in Favor Motion Carried.

- **Membership Report for 2025—Eva Casola**

474 members on roster, during the past year 12 were removed property being sold, or deaths. Currently there are 82 active members (those who paid dues). Motion by Tom Hudak seconded by Dick Morgan to accept membership report. No discussion, All in Favor, Motion Carried.

- **Election Results—Eva Casola**

16 ballots cast, 3 electronically, 0 write in votes incumbent slate elected with Board of Directors certifying. Motion to approve Dick Morgan, seconded Lisa Hurley No Discussion, All in Favor, Motion Carried.

Old Business

- **Beach Vitex and Spongy Moth Update—Bud Nusselt**

County Ordinance 10-128 Beach and Dune Restoration, sub Section B outlines beach vitex eradication program and details specifying that it is illegal to plant vitex. On April 25,2025 the state of NC postponed treatment of the spongy moth due to delays in federal funding for the program.

- **Social Media---Eva Casola**

Eva reported an increase in number of accessing to the Fruitville Beach Association Facebook group page 218 in 2025 compared to 170 in 2024

- **Carova Beach Volunteer Fire and Rescue Auxiliary Updates (Stations 7 & 7-2) Jennifer Early**

Grant writer has been retained for Station 7-2 in order to secure funding to construct facility. Equipment for the station is available once construction

CBVFR Auxiliary Update (cont.)

is completed. Ladies Auxiliary are working for the July 18th Donkey Derby and an Art and Craft event scheduled for Aug. 6th. Motion by Eva Casola, seconded Dick Morgan to donate \$100 to CBVFR Ladies Auxiliary for Donkey Derby. Discussion: There will not be a table to promote FBCA. Motion to approve, 30 yea one recusal, Motion Carried.

Eva Casola motion seconded Dick Morgan donate \$100 to Swan Beach Station 7-2 construction project. No Discussion All in Favor, Motion Carried

- **Mid County Bridge Update—Connie Johnson**

The NC Turnpike Authority (NCTA) will install traffic counting devices on the overhead sign located on US 158 near Duck Woods Drive. The purpose of these devices is to gather data on the number of vehicles entering the Outer Banks that are currently equipped with toll payment transponders. This information will be used for NCTA's traffic and usage forecast models, which will help in planning and managing transportation needs.

The project has cleared major environmental hurdles, with the Federal Highway Administration issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) on March 8, 2019, approving the environmental review and permitting process. No completion date is confirmed and listed as "To Be Determined."

As of April 18, 2025, the Mid County Currituck Bridge Project is advancing but faces significant hurdles. The permitting process is ongoing, with no permits issued and public comments recently closed for the CAMA and 401 certifications. Construction could start in 2026 if funding is secured and permits are granted, but the \$1.139 billion cost and failed grant application pose challenges. Legal and environmental opposition persists, though major lawsuits have been resolved. The project's fate hinges on securing funds, finalizing permits and addressing environmental concerns, with no guaranteed completion date.

- **Unified Development Ordinance Updates---Neil Casola**

BACKGROUND - August 21, 2024 BOC meeting approved CB Land Development LLC (SAGA subsidiary) 172 room hotel and mixed-use development at Herring Street and NC12 in Corolla. The local community had many concerns before hand

UDO Ordinance Updates (cont.)

that were not addressed going back to April 2023 when very preliminary development plans were discussed at a public meeting.

Don Haller Identified sections in the UDO that were lacking or non-existent regarding large commercial developments requirements, i.e. setbacks with residential property, height, and traffic and stormwater impact and made an application to Currituck County for various amendments.

May 14, 2024 Planning meeting reviewed PB-24-10 Donald Haller UDO changes and recommended approval to the BOC.

June 3, 2024 PB 24-10 Donald Haller UDO amendment. Staff and applicant made presentations. BOC wanted to review impact .

August 17, 2024 BOC working session to discuss PB 24-10

RESULTS

September 16, 2024 BOC meeting approved PB 24-10 Donald Haller UDO amendment

Summary of changes:

- Special use permit for commercial, industrial, mixed-use, or multi-family development consisting of at least 30,000 square feet of floor area located in Corolla. The SUP shall include a traffic impact analysis and stormwater narrative prepared by a registered engineer
- Special use permit for hotels in Corolla with 50 or more rooms to include a traffic impact analysis and stormwater narrative prepared by a registered engineer
- Community Compatibility Standards to require buildings to be setback 75 feet from a lot line shared with an existing single-family dwelling, to the maximum extent practicable.
- Community Compatibility Standards to require buildings to maintain a maximum height of two stories and 35 feet within 100 feet of a lot line shared with an existing single-family dwelling

- Corolla Wild Horse Fund News and Events—Jennifer Early

A number of events and fund raisers are in progress. Owners of vacation rental homes are encouraged to donate \$20 per week and in so doing will receive a

CWHF Update (cont.)

plaque for display in their homes. Wednesday programs are being offered at rescue centers. There is an effort discontinue naming horses. Reason being is that vacationers are literally hunting the horses down to see, pet etc.

Issues can be reported to CWHF Currituck County Non Emergency phone number 252-232-6603 or CWHF 252-453-8002.

Motion by Eva Casola seconded Eleanor Nusselt to donate \$100 to the CWHF, No Discussion, Motion Carried

- **NEST (Network for Endangered Sea Turtles) – Jennifer Early**

The organization covers Nags Head to the Virginia line. Most of the turtles nest at night or early morning. Kemps Ridley Sea Turtles nest during the day. Turtle nesting season begins May 1 and lasts until Nov. 15.

Members of NEST diligently check where turtles lay eggs and stake out area in attempt to minimize vehicular traffic impact; communicate information to the public such as minimizing amount of light pollution during hatching. The Corolla Surf Shop is selling NEST T-Shirts for NEST to raise funds. Motion by Lisa Hurley seconded by Tom Hudak to donate \$100 to the Nest Organization. No Discussion All In Favor, Motion Carried

- **Trash Bin Ordinance Progress—Eva Casola**

Home owners are required under a county trash ordinance, to have trash placed in animal proof enclosures with 1 container per bedroom (min 4, max 10) and 1 recycling container per 3 trash containers. Trash must be removed at least 2/week, and 3/week for homes with 10+ bedrooms. For additional information contact Currituck County Public Works Director Leighton Earwood 252 232 2504

NEW BUSINESS

- **NCDOT Charging for Previously Free Ferries—Tom Hudak**

North Carolina Senate has approved a proposed \$66 million budget that includes tacking on tolls for all NC Dept. of Transportation Ferry routes and raising rates at those where tolls already exist including the Currituck Knotts Island Ferry. The collective toll fees are estimated to generate \$64 million in revenue for fiscal 2026 and 2027. The toll revenue would be allocated to the States Ferry Capital Fund for marine vessel replacement.

- Sand Fence Cost Share Program—Pat Carstater

Currituck County has a sand fence cost share program. Cost share programs are available in Currituck County to property owners who want to protect land and restore ocean front dunes. Grantees can be reimbursed for the purchase and installation of sand fence. A federal program with the FSA and NRCS share up to 90% of the cost.

You can contact Jovita Hood for CAMA approval prior to sand fence installation. 252 232 6019 or Jovita.Hood@CurrituckCountyNC

This information was found on Currituck County web site.

- Internet on the 4x4 – Eva Casola

NC Broadband.gov has initiated a Three Year Plan for upgrades in rural areas. By Dec. 31, 2026 we should experience significant upgrades for high speed internet.

- Insurance Increases---Bud Nusselt

Homeowners commencing June 1 will face increase of 7.5 percent and another 7.5 percent on June 1, 2026. Actual premium will be based on home's location, deductibles, named storms etc. Originally state was seeking an increase at a significantly higher percentage.

- Shorelock—new technology to save money and sand---Pat Carstater

Beach Nourishment

Could this be a real alternative to beach nourishment as a mitigation to protect homes and infrastructure?

Shore Lock is a new technology to save money and sand.

It is a substance that is mixed with the existing sand that lets the water flow through without taking the sand back into the ocean.

For further details see Outer Banks Voice May 15, 2025

- Kudos in wake of Hurricanes Helen & Milton—Eva Casola

Eva extended a sincere thank you to Rhonda Galko and Jennifer Early for their effort in collecting and delivering donations to families impacted by the hurricanes.

Other Pertinent Matters:

Member Tina Wettengel expressed concerned about traffic west of dune line, specifically to a recent accident in Swan Beach. The incident occurred at the

Other Pertinent Matters (cont.)

intersection of Canary Lane and Sandpiper Road. On numerous occasions vehicles travel thru without stopping. The intersection includes visibility issues especially when travelling north on Sandpiper Road. Tina raised a question as to do intersections require a 4 way stop; and or perhaps signage posted with speed limits. After a short discussion it was decided Eva Casola, Tina Wettengel, Lisa Hurley and Kim Dombroski would meet to craft a letter inquiring as to whether signs could be erected at major intersections and ramps noting speed limit and/or right of way especially those where vision is obstructed.

Motion to adjourn by Leon Nusselt, seconded Connie Johnson.

All in favor Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm



Correction from page 4 – Fire Station 7-2

Chief Jay Laughmiller has advised the following corrections to the minutes: a grant writer has not been retained to secure funding for Station 7-2, and equipment for the station is not currently available.

Post Meeting FBCA Updates

- We are seeking to fill a Board Member seat before the next election and invite any dues-paying member of at least two years to consider being nominated. To learn more, contact Eva Casola or any Board member (contact info on page 1).
- Following the May 23, 2025 accident at Sandpiper Road and Canary Lane, a volunteer group of members was formed to study traffic risks and possible informational signage such as “Blind Hill” and “Yield at Intersections” within the 4x4 area. The Board formally accepted the name, FBCA Safety Committee, at its July 24, 2025 meeting but did not approve a motion to send a letter to Currituck County about the proposed sign project. Since the sand roads are privately held and the county does not own them, county officials, including the County Engineer, have been generally supportive of the concept yet unable to formally authorize sign installation, so the committee is continuing to explore options within those constraints.

FBCA Membership Form

 Please complete and return this form with your \$30 dues payment per property owner 

Payment Options:

-  **Online:** Use PayPal at www.fruitvillebeach.com.
-  **Mail:** Send your form and payment to:

FBCA
PO Box 482
Corolla, NC 27927

-  **Email:** Complete the form and email a scanned copy or photo to FBCAMembership@gmail.com

Membership Information:

- **Name(s):** _____
- **Home Mailing Address:** _____
- **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
- **Phone #:** _____
- **Email Address:** _____

(Providing your email helps reduce printing and mailing costs!)

- **Beach 911 Address (4x4 Property):** _____
- **Subdivision:** _____

Payment Details:

- **Paid Amount:** \$ _____
- **Submission Method:**
 - Credit Card (via PayPal)
 - Check #: _____

Interested in Serving on the FBCA Board?

Yes, please contact me!

Questions?

Visit us online at www.fruitvillebeach.com or on Facebook [Fruitville Beach Civic Association](#)

News from Currituck County

- At its November 3, 2025 meeting, the Currituck County Board of Commissioners swore in Troy Breathwaite to temporarily fill the District 5 seat, with Clerk of Superior Court Ray Matusko administering the oath. Breathwaite will serve as a fully active voting member while Commissioner Owen Etheridge is on approved leave through January 1, 2026.
- Currituck County Sheriff's Office is warning about phone scams where callers pose as deputies, threaten arrest or missed jury duty, and demand payment by Bitcoin, gift cards, wire transfer, or other electronic methods. The Sheriff's Office will never call to demand money or ask for personal information such as your Social Security number, date of birth, or bank details. If you receive such a call, hang up immediately. To verify any claim, contact the Sheriff's Office directly at 252-453-8204 or the 24-hour non-emergency line at 252-453-3633.
- Currituck County has named Rebecca Conners as Director of the 911 Communications Department, effective November 3, 2025. Conners brings extensive experience from emergency communications centers in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, and holds both a B.S. and M.P.A. from Indiana State University. She is highly credentialed, with multiple national certifications in emergency dispatch, training, and communications center management.



Other 4x4 News

- The newly formed North Beach Preservation Alliance (NBPA), led by Carol Slamowitz, is focused on beach access and safety issues on the last 12 miles of beach. FBCA is represented on NBPA by FBCA member-at-large Cathie Blanton, who has attended two previous meetings. For more information or to get involved, please contact Carol Slamowitz at 804-389-9298.

FRUITVILLE BEACH CIVIC ASSOC, INC.

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(Photo courtesy of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, via The Outer Banks Voice)