

Summer/Fall 2022

Fruitville Beach Civic Association

P.O. Box 482 / Corolla, NC 27927

FBCAMembership@gmail.com

www.fruitvillebeach.com



Officers

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Message from the President

Hello everyone,

I hope your fall is off to a good start. Thankfully, hurricane season is nearing its end. We're still working at our house to fix slight damage from recent storms. Hopefully, there will be calmer weather during the winter months. I'm reminded that this weekend clocks are to be set back one hour and to change the batteries in all smoke detectors.

A bit of sad news to share: Two of our long-time Board Members have decided to step down, Jack Pardue and Gina Albrecht. Jack was involved with the Outer Banks Civic League, which evolved into the FBCA (Fruitville Beach Civic Association). He also created our logo that has been in use since 1989. Both Jack and Gina have served in the Vice President position. Jack was VP for many years under our previous President, Tom Hudak, and Gina has served as VP since just after I became President while serving as Member-at-Large for many years prior to that. Both Gina and Jack were instrumental in supporting FBCA during, what I'll call, *the tumultuous years*, when the Department of the Interior was interested in owning all the 4x4 area. During that time, Jack donated his artistic talents to paint portraits of a burning bush, Robert E. Lee and Sitting Bull that were sold to raise funds needed for legal defense toward that litigation. All the while, Gina has donated her legal expertise to guide FBCA through this time, as well as interpreting and guiding FBCA during lawsuits with Ocean Associates, to prevent the prominence of commercialization in Fruitville Beach Township, aka the 4x4 strand. Both Gina and Jack helped make FBCA what it is today and leave a grand legacy in their departure. "Thank you" is not sufficient to mark their contribution and dedication. Their addresses and phone numbers are listed to the left in the margin. Please reach out to them with a word of appreciation if you are so inclined.

Till soon,
Eva

General Membership Minutes

Fruitville Beach Civic Association
General Membership Annual Meeting
Carova Beach Volunteer Fire and Rescue
May 28, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present: Eva Casola, Norman Zwahlen, Tom Hudak, Neil Casola, Pat Carstater, Connie Johnson
Absent: Gina Albrecht, Jack Pardue, Cathie Blanton
19 members in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 11:35am.

Upon completion of welcoming remarks, President Eva Casola highlighted guidelines for meeting and introduced guest speakers Currituck County Sheriff's Dept. Deputies---Sargent Kevin Corbell and Lieutenant Neal Smith. The deputies discussed beach driving, beach safety, newly revised beach parking passes, non-emergency phone calls to report violations, use of 911 emergency, keeping foreshore open for emergency use, staffing issues, horse tours, overnight camping, boating in canals and sound, and Sheriff availability on Thursdays at 1pm—CBVFD. Questions and answer session completed the dialogue.

Approval of 2021 Minutes---Tom Hudak

Motion to approve minutes of 2021 Gen'l Membership Meeting by Brian Koehr, as published on the website, second by Neil Casola. No discussion Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report—Norman Zwahlen

Motion by Pat Carstater, & second Tom Hudak to approve Treasurer's Report presented by Norman Zwahlen. Copy of report attached to minutes. Discussion to approve report as Official Audit. All in favor, motion carried.

Membership Report—Pat Carstater

Membership roster includes 299 active/inactive members including Local, County State Officials and local newspapers. ~~3 members have been removed due to sale of property, deceased, no current address or dues in arrears for more than 5 years.~~ 34 members have paid their dues of which 10 were paid electronically. Contributions in the amount of \$14.42 were received for the legal defense fund as a result of testing square software process for dues payment. Motion by Neil Casola & second by Eva Casola to approve membership report. Norman commented on number of folks in 4x4 area who have not joined. All in favor, motion carried.

Election Results—Pat Carstater

A total of 16 ballots for the current year election were returned for slate of officers; no write in candidates.

Minutes cont.

All ballots received included votes for slate of officers. Motion to certify election results by Tom Hudak, second by Connie Johnson. No discussion All in Favor, motion carried.

Legal Defense Update

Eva Casola reported that the current balance in our attorney trust account is \$2,029.11. Funds for 2021 were not deposited, but rather kept in our checking account. Motion by Eva Casola, seconded Neil Casola to forward \$10 per member paid for 2021 to FBCA Attorney Roger Knight. Discussion pertained to the amount. Eva recommended \$600 or 30 percent of the \$1800. 17 members in favor, 2 opposed, Motion carried.

Old Business

Mid County Bridge Update—Neil Casola

Neil reported on current status including lawsuit filed in April 2019 by Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of NC Wildlife Federation. On Dec. 13, 2021 District Court for Eastern NC found in favor of NCDOT and Federal Hwy Administration.

Estimated cost for project in 2022 dollars is 500 million. Neil reported on NCDOT's published financing options, and that toll has not been estimated. A projected start of construction in 2025 as indicated by State legislative Rep. Bobby Hanig.

Website report—Eva Casola

Eva reported on the features for the new website---www.fruitvillebeach.com; that include a variety of forms, documents, newsletters, and options for payment of dues.

Zoom Meetings—Eva Casola

The FBCA has not renewed our zoom account due to cost factor. We will continue to use free version that allows for 45-minute meetings. For the future help will be needed to organize zoom meetings.

New Business

Facebook Page—Eva Casola

Eva mentioned the new FBCA Facebook page component for the Off Road/4x4 Group that has been created with the help of Carol Slamowitz. It was used to advertise our annual meeting and recruit new members.

CBVFR Update—Jennifer Early

Jennifer discussed progress of plans in place for station 7-2—Swan Beach. Concrete has been poured for the helo pad, and once cured will tested in anticipation of securing approval to use. Funds are steadily being raised for the bldg. needed to house equipment. Cost estimates are in the millions and approval process to build has become more complicated due to zoning as

Minutes cont.

commercial.

Jennifer mentioned plans for a 40th anniversary celebration commemorating establishment of the CBVFD. An event is being planned for Sept. 4th. Additional information forth coming.

CAMA Information---Eva Casola

Eva discussed letter received from Kevin Kemp, Development Services Director, Currituck County. The letter included an analysis of basic planning and zoning in the off-road area.

Copies of the document were available and distributed to members in attendance, as well as, being posted on the FBCA Website.

Cluster Mailbox at the Carova Fire Station----Eva Casola

Eva reported that the Corolla Post Office is anxious to add more boxes. Motion by Eva Casola, second Pat Carstater to proceed with procuring 1 set at wholesale cost of \$2800 plus shipping and installation for a total price not to exceed \$4000 pending a final quote. The FBCA Board has previously discussed this issue and agreed to move forward as a gesture of good will for the community. Discussion—Board members wanted to explore options for members from Swan Beach, North Swan Beach, Sea Gull to be able to secure a PO box in Carova. All In Favor—Motion Carried.

Corolla Civic Association—Neil & Eva Casola

Neil and Eva, as property owners attended a CCA meeting resulting from a post card they received from CCA requesting donations for a defense fund in order to appeal a July 19, 2021 ruling in favor of Currituck County in respect to using occupancy tax revenue. CCA is planning to appeal the ruling in order to have \$40 million transferred back to Occupancy Tax fund. CCA has hired Fox, Rothschild a national law firm with experience in the OBX. Additional information may be found via www.SaveOurBeach.net

Other Pertinent Matters/Open Discussion

Motion by Eva Casola, second Connie Johnson that the FBCA contribute \$100 each to the CBVFD, CBVFD Swan Station 7-2 Building Fund and the Corolla Wild Horse Fund. No discussion. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Pat Carstater, second Connie Johnson.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted by

Tom Hudak, FBCA Secretary.

Treasurer's Report Attached

Minutes cont.

Fruitville Beach Civic Association Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

January 1, 2021----December 31, 2021

Balance January 1, 2021		9,913.45	
Receipts			
Dues/Donations	1,839.88		
Interest Earned	1.03		
		1,840.91	
Total			11,754.36
Disbursements			
Printing, Postage Supplies	215.86		
PO Box	160.00		
Website	42.50		
Legal			
Donation	503.48		
Meeting Expense			
Supplies			
Total Disbursements		921.84	
Balance December 31, 2021			10,832.52

Respectfully submitted,
Norman J. Zwahlen, Treasurer

You are invited to become an FBCA member. Visit our website at www.fruitvillebeach.com where you may pay \$30 yearly dues online and download a membership form for submission to FBCAMembership@gmail.com.

Helpful Information

There are several ways to educate yourself, your renters and your visitors:

Websites	Fruitville Beach Civic Association https://fruitvillebeach.com/ Currituck County https://co.currituck.nc.us/
Facebook	Fruitville Beach Civic Association group page https://www.facebook.com/groups/5616285088414127

*** THIS IS IMPORTANT ***

During the summer, the Currituck County Board was sent a video outlining horse tour infractions and their excessive use of the roads in Swan Beach, although, the video is applicable to the entire 4x4 strand. You may view the video here: https://youtu.be/B_VkBo5lL-k Clips were submitted by residents and the video was compiled by Mindy Heart and Cindy Midkiff. The Board was receptive to the video. We are hopeful that positive changes are forthcoming. Stay tuned for updates.

Although horse tour activity seems to lessen somewhat during the colder months, there are new rental companies in the OBX, primarily of Jeeps, directing customers in search of horses in the 4x4 area. These customers are unfamiliar with wild horse rules and etiquette. ***This is a very serious matter.*** Please keep these numbers and email addresses handy to make it easy to send video/pics of infractions by tours or the public. If you see something, say something:

1. Email information with a description and location of the action to sbpoa.tours@gmail.com
2. Send photos to Lt. McCord in the Sherriff's Department to keep him informed:
209@currituckcountync.gov
3. Also contact the Corolla Wild Horse Fund at (252) 453-8002 and
director@corollawildhorses.com
4. For complaints, the non-emergency Sherriff's number is (252) 453-3633

Additional incident reporting contacts

- **NCWRC hotline** (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission) - 800-662-7137
- **Horse tour** compliments/complaints (to be sent to Currituck County) –
<https://co.currituck.nc.us/horse-tours/tour-driver-reporting/>

End-of-Year Giving

- **Carova Beach Volunteer Fire & Rescue** may be sent donations through their website at <https://www.cbvfandr.com/> . If sending a check, be certain to designate in the memo whether the donation is for Station 7 in Carova or Station 72 in Swan Beach.
- **Network for Endangered Sea Turtles** may be sent donations through their website at <https://www.nestonline.org/> or by calling 252-441-8622.
- **Corolla Wild Horse Fund** is requesting donations for land purchases in order to promote the continued preservation of the 4x4 area as a permanent sanctuary for the horses. Please see the portion of their website dedicated to this cause. *All donations to CWHF are tax deductible.* <https://www.corollawildhorses.com/planned-giving/>

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS TO DONATE:

1. **Online** directly through the Planned Giving Form (link above) or though the donations to their main page at <https://www.corollawildhorses.com/one-time-donations/> Note in the comment section that funds are to be used for the *Land Acquisition Fund*
2. **Personal check via postal mail** sent to PO Box 361, Corolla, NC 27927. Note in the check memo that funds are to be used for the *Land Acquisition Fund*
3. **DVDs** of “The Secret of Corolla” may also be purchased to support the horses. Enjoy it with your family or place a copy in your rental for your renters to watch: <https://www.corollawildhorses.com/.../the-secret-of.../>

What is killing our native plants and endangering sea turtle nests?

Learn about Beach Vitex and why it has been officially banned from NC beaches. (see video)

[Beach Vitex: Kudzu of the Coast? – YouTube](#)

Martha Chedister recently met with NC Agricultural and County folks to work toward this effort. However, there is more work to be done. Please contact me at

Eva.Casola@gmail.com if you are available to help with this effort Spring 2023 and I'll get your info to Martha. – Thank You!



FRUITVILLE BEACH CIVIC ASSOC, INC.

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Curtis
Commander
Curran Beach Pics

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