

HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE PRECINCT  
MEETING  
July 11, 2007

Present

Maureen Buckley, Chairman & Commissioner  
Gary Kubik, Commissioner  
Chuck Rage, Commissioner  
John Gebhart, Treasurer

Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Buckley introduced the members of the board.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Fireworks**

Chairman Buckley said there had been a great deal of concern about the cancellation of the fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup> and she would like an explanation of exactly what happened.

Warren Pierce of American Thunder explained that when equipment gets wet, it can go bad and become a safety hazard. This particular show was cancelled because equipment had become wet. In a situation like this, the shells can actually blow up in the guns. Mr. Pierce showed examples of tubes that had been blown apart in a similar situation. He said wind can also be an issue and they have legal limits for that. Mr. Pierce said that the people in American Thunder are trained to never risk an accident. Just because the weather clears at shoot time does not mean a shoot will be safe. Mr. Pierce suggested that a rain date should always be set for the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks.

Chairman Buckley said that one of the problems was that the Chamber was told at 6:45 p.m. that the fireworks were a go. Doc Noel, Chamber of Commerce, said that there were close to 700 calls to the Chamber regarding the fireworks. Mr. Kubik asked who was the source of this information. Mr. Noel replied that it was Chief Lipe. Mr. Noel said that many people were so upset they said they would never return to the beach. Mr. Kubik said this also reflects on all of the businesses. Jack Knox said that he actually made the announcement from the stage at 7:00 p.m. that the shoot was on. Fifteen minutes later he had to announce that there was a cancellation. Mr. Knox said there was a breakdown in communication and there should be one single source who makes a definitive decision.

Chairman Buckley said she and Mr. Kubik met with John True, Fire Protection Officer, on July 5<sup>th</sup>. A suggestion was made that there should be some kind of communication outside of the Chamber.

Mr. True then addressed the group. He said that there should be a fireworks hotline and all calls regarding fireworks could be transferred there. A chain of communication should be established. Mr. True said that from a safety perspective the Fire Department can cancel the fireworks at any time. There is a policy about this in place and anybody who would like to see it is welcome to do so.

Mr. Joe Early asked if cancellation could be earlier. He said his job is to contact the boat operators. At 6:55 p.m. he communicated a shoot.

Chairman Buckley said this was discussed at the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. There should be a time when a decision must be made. Mr. True said there is a fine line between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Mr. Pierce said he believes it is necessary to have a definitive time of when to call the show. The public can be told that the show probably won't take place, but if possible the show can go on.

Mr. Kubik said the decision should be made by 6:30 p.m.

Jeannine Scanlon said she felt the boaters need to know by 6:00 p.m. and there should be two cutoff times, one for the boaters and one for everyone else. Ms. Scanlon said the public needs to have more information about why decisions are made. Mr. True suggested a disclaimer on the website.

Chairman Buckley said 6:30 p.m. would be the cutoff time and some type of hotline would be established.

### **Entertainment**

Regarding Tops in Blue, Jack Knox said that one concern had been about extra expenses for 3-phase electrical that might be incurred by the Precinct or the State.

Mr. Knox introduced LTC Nicole Belcher of the Air Force. She explained that they will bring in a generator and there will be no extra cost connected with this production.

Mr. Knox said that there was also a concern about the size of the stage. The Air Force representatives and Mr. Knox planned to look at the stage later this evening.

LTC Belcher said that this production will be done during Air Force Week New England and will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Air Force. Chairman Buckley said the people of the Beach are honored to have this production.

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LTC Belcher said that there is a large banner available. Mr. Noel said that on the State side of the beach permission has been granted only for a banner for the Seafood Festival. Mr. Rage will check to see if it can be put up by the Ashworth.

Mr. Knox said he had been getting a lot of input on the Idol competition. He said a meeting should be set to do an initial screening of contestants.

### **Sandsculpture Event**

Greg Grady said that Sand Sculpture '07 was a banner event. There was a lot of coverage on the event including the Beach Report on the Weather Channel. T-shirt sales were great and covered everything for the sponsors, etc. The brochures went over very well. The ambassadors and volunteers worked out well. The only problem was with security. The security was changed mid-event. Mr. Grady thanked Chairman Buckley for everything the Precinct did to make this event the great one that it was. Chairman Buckley complimented Mr. Grady on the event.

Mr. Grady said that it is important to have sponsors for next year in place by November or December.

### **Advertising**

John Kane said that the sand sculpture event brought many people to the Beach. There were many publications which covered this event. There were 180 spots through Comcast.

Volleyball and Idol posters will be distributed to the businesses. Contact for the volleyball event is Hampton Recreation Department at 926-3932.

Mr. Kane showed the "Summer Activity Guide" where Hampton Beach is featured. He also showed a page from the Boston Globe featuring Hampton Beach and the Town of Hampton.

Mr. Rage said that he, as a hotel owner, has been receiving many calls from other areas such as upstate New York. He commended Mr. Kane on a fine job of advertising.

Regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, Mr. Kane said he has the hats and shirts. The coin will be here in three weeks. He is working to get this event in the paper and also working with Linda Gebhart and Jeannine Scanlon on the newsletter.

Mr. Kubik asked how many coins had been ordered. Mr. Kane said that 250 had been ordered and would be given out as souvenirs at the ball. Mr. Kane asked if that number

should be increased. John Christianson suggested that the coins could be offered for sale. Mr. Kubik said that some businesses might be interested in purchasing coins to send out to customers.

**Moved** by Chairman Buckley, seconded by Mr. Kubik, that 500 coins be ordered.

**Vote:** 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Beautification**

Jeannine Scanlon said that a lot of maintenance is being done. The new project is the wildflower meadow on 101. She said Aquarian is still trying to find a way to get water to the site. There has been a lot of teamwork and participation on this project. Ms. Scanlon thanked everyone who worked and volunteered. Ms. Scanlon said that a third boat has been donated. Ms. Gebhart said that many compliments have been received on all of the gardens.

Mr. Kane said there is a beach cleanup program. Ms. Gebhart will check into this. Ms. Gebhart said they would like to hire a part-time employee to help with the watering of the gardens.

**Moved** by Mr. Kubik, seconded by Mr. Rage, to hire an individual on a part-time basis to help with the watering of the gardens.

**Vote:** 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Newsletter**

Ms. Scanlon said they are planning to have the newsletter completed by the first week of August. She asked that anyone who has information on Precinct history should contact her at 926-0015 or Linda Gebhart at 929-3850.

John Christianson said that he is working on a personal history of the Precinct. He asked that if anybody had any information they could reach him at [nhhampton@aol.com](mailto:nhhampton@aol.com). Mr. Christianson also said he would like a mailing list of all Precinct residents.

**Moved** by Mr. Kubik, seconded by Chairman Buckley, to allow John Christianson to go to Town Hall to obtain a mailing list of all Precinct residents.

**Vote:** 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

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### **Old Business**

Chairman Buckley said that Representative Nancy Stiles presented the Precinct with a plaque from the House of Representatives recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Chairman Buckley expressed her thanks to Representative Stiles.

### **New Business**

Mr. Kubik said that it was imperative to get a new phone line set up for a fireworks hotline. Chairman Buckley suggested talking to John True about this issue.

Ed St. Pierre came forward. He said that this could be done with a simple answering machine with multiple mailboxes. Mr. Kubik said this number could be advertised in local hotels, etc. and on Channel 22. Mr. St. Pierre said he would be glad to help on this project.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Noel said that the Chamber is requesting 8 spaces in the Precinct parking lot for the Seafood Festival.

**Moved** by Mr. Kubik, seconded by Chairman Buckley, to give the Chamber of Commerce 8 parking spaces in the Precinct parking lot for the Seafood Festival.

**Vote:** 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Minutes – June 13, 2007**

The Minutes of June 13, 2007 were approved by unanimous vote.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Kubik **moved**, seconded by Mr. Rage, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary