

HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE PRECINCT
MEETING
May 13, 2009

Present

Gary Kubik, Chairman & Commissioner
Chuck Rage, Commissioner
June White, Commissioner
John Gebhart, Treasurer

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Kubik introduced the members of the Board

Hampton Area Beach Commission

John Nyhan, Chairman HABC, came forward. Mr. Nyhan said he wanted to present an update as to what the Commission is doing. Mr. Nyhan thanked the Precinct for their efforts towards the Hampton Beach Redevelopment Project. He said possibly tomorrow the Budgets Committee in Concord could be voting to keep the \$14.5 million in the capital budget for this project. Mr. Nyhan said he was also able to secure another \$3 million through the efforts of the Department of Transportation. A grant will also be applied for through the Community Development Finance Authority which will help get tax credits and then donations can be sought. Once the Senate approves the budget, it will go to the Governor for signature. Hopefully, this will be settled by the end of June.

The HABC was also able to secure a \$20,000 grant. This will go towards an extended parking study. This study will also look at parking for the future. This will all take place this summer. The Rockingham Planning Commission is working on the scope of the project.

Chairman Kubik thanked Mr. Nyhan for his leadership in the redevelopment project. Mr. Nyhan said it has been a joint effort. The State Representatives have all bonded together on this project and been a great help.

Chamber of Commerce

Doc Noel, President of the Chamber of Commerce, came forward. Mr. Noel said he would like to discuss the Chamber Information Center at the Beach. He said the Chamber participates with the Precinct. Mr. Noel introduced the new Chairman of the Board of the Chamber, Mr. Tim Noonis of Unitil.

Mr. Noel said the Chamber has two offices. Beginning in June, the Information Center at the Beach will be open 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. All members of the Chamber can display information, brochures, etc. for free. This is also a New Hampshire Information Center. Mr. Noel said he has a wonderful staff who really make the Chamber achieve its goals. The Center also deals with lost children, has an ATM operation and a lottery operation. The Hampton Beach Visitors Guide and Calendar of Events are also available. The Chamber is in the process of building a Seacoast area map and just finished a membership directory. The Chamber works in conjunction with the Precinct on all events at the Beach.

Mr. Noel said the Chamber is developing the 2009 summer season advertising spots for members of the Chamber. A business will be able to advertise on the large LCD monitors being placed inside the Chamber office next to the Band Stand. Other information such as weather, lost child, events, etc. will also be displayed.

Chairman Kubik inquired about the thought of using the internet to help defray the cost of postage. Mr. Noel replied that this had already been discussed and they are looking into the possibility of having the option to download the Vacation Guide in the future off of the internet.

Chairman Kubik asked how the mailings have compared over the last five years. Mr. Noel said that it was in the 11,000 range and hadn't really changed over those years.

Entertainment Update

Jack Knox said the entertainment program is complete. Unfortunately, Tops in Blue will not be able to play this summer. However, they have asked if they can play during the summer of 2010 and Unutil has agreed to their sponsorship at that time.

Mr. Knox said there are 86 dates in place. After Burner, a past favorite, will be back for two performances. Idol is in place. Country will be on Thursday nights.

Mr. Knox said each act has been sent an e-mail outlining access, load in, parking, etc. and asking them to encourage their audiences to visit the businesses on the Beach during the break.

There will also be Children's Movie Night on the Beach on Mondays and there will be two children's theater productions.

Mr. Knox asked that if any member of the Board, audience or public has any ideas for any kind of event that might stimulate tourism especially at the end of the season to contact him.

Marketing Update

John Kane, Marketing Director, said he and Doc Noel attended the Governor's Council on Tourism. They were able to talk to counterparts and it was also a vendor show. The State of New Hampshire was there. Hampton Beach is featured on the back cover of the State's handbook. The Beach is also featured in the Events Calendar and listed on the State's website for all events.

Mr. Kane said they are still looking for volunteers for the Sand Sculpture event. You can sign up on-line or call Greg Grady at 929-6301.

Chairman Kubik asked about sponsorships. Mr. Kane said some are coming in.

Sand Sculpture Update

Maureen Buckley also emphasized the need for volunteers for this event. If you would like to volunteer you can also call Maureen at 396-6225.

Beautification

Geannina Scanlan and Linda Gebhart came forward. Ms. Scanlan said she and Ms. Gebhart had gone to Concord to receive an award for Beautification for Hampton Beach. They also received a book on tree identification for the New England region which has been donated to the library.

Ms. Gebhart said all 19 trees planted last year made it through the winter and many are blooming. Ms. Gebhart said she wanted to thank the Winnacunnet Science Club for their help at Bicentennial Park. She also thanked Ed St. Pierre for his work at the statue monument. Ms. Gebhart said she and Ms. Scanlan will be planting a new garden at that location. Two urns have also been placed with the help of Public Works.

Ms. Scanlan said the Earth Day Walk was a success and they plan to do it again next year.

Ms. Gebhart said that last Monday night, she, Ms. Scanlan, John Gebhart and Brian Warburton addressed the Board of Selectmen about the trash issue. Ms. Gebhart said everyone has to make an effort and take responsibility for this issue.

Ms. Scanlan said it is important to work with people to show them visually that we do recycle. Perhaps some type of prototype could be used, i.e. an art contest, etc. The Recycling Committee is working on handouts.

Ms. Gebhart said perhaps it is time to talk about fines. Commissioner Rage said it is going to be up to the business people because there are always some people who just won't comply.

Ms. Scanlan said Selectman Znoj suggested that there be more signs showing the hours of operation at the playground. She will talk to Brian Warburton regarding enforcement.

Old Business

Commissioner White said that tomorrow she would be meeting with Unitil and they will be putting up the rest of the banners. There will be 17 more banners. She thanked Unitil for their help.

New Business

Chairman Kubik said that the Hampton Bridge is now open. It will remain open until after Labor Day at which time the second phase will be started.

Commissioner White said that Hannaford is donating 200 bags which will be given out to the businesses for doggie bags, etc.

Commissioner White said she is working on the Christmas season. Greg Grady is willing to do snow sculptures over the Christmas/New Years week. Commissioner White is going to ask the fishermen to decorate their boats and compete for prize money. She asked if anyone who could donate wooden lobster crates would contact her. The crates can be decorated with wreaths and garlands.

Public Comment

Carol Mantia said she had been an Ambassador for 9 years and asked if the Ambassadors would be working this year. Chairman Kubik said a decision had been made for the Ambassador program to be discontinued for the 2009 season.

Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Avenue, came forward. He discussed the meeting between the Precinct and the Board of Selectmen which recently took place. This meeting concerned the leasing agreement for the Beach Fire Station building. Mr. Reniere said he felt the Board of Selectmen abruptly made the decision to continue the agreement as it is. Mr. Reniere did not feel this was an acceptable action by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Reniere said the Precinct has lost parking revenue and made many concessions over the years. He said he hoped that when the Precinct next meets with the Board of Selectmen they would be aggressive in that negotiation.

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Mr. Reniere said that lighting was also discussed at that meeting. There was a discussion to install lighting at the Town parking lot. The Town Manager's solution was that it might be wise to take away lighting elsewhere to balance it off. He mentioned Highland Avenue. Mr. Reniere said he would not like to see this happen.

Commissioner Rage said that the Commissioners' main object is fire safety and protection on the Beach. Commissioner Kubik said every effort would be made to work with the Board of Selectmen.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Rage, to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2009.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Closing Comments

There were no closing comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary