

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE PRECINCT
MEETING
July 13, 2011**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Maureen Buckley, Commissioner
Gary Kubik, Commissioner
Steve LaBranche, Treasurer

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Rage introduced the members of the Board.

Marketing

John Kane, Marketing Director, said Hampton Beach has been awarded a Super Star Beach Rating. This was done by the Surf Rider Foundation, Blue Ocean Society and Adopt the Beach. Hampton Beach has received this honor three years in a row and now has Super Star status. There are only three other beaches in the U.S. in this category.

There were well over 100 people at last night's movie night. Mr. Kane thanked Glen French for allowing his assistant to help with an amplifier problem. The movie next week, suggested by Chairman Rage, will be "Kicking & Screaming".

Childrens Week will be July 15th through July 20th. All events are listed on the website. The Hampton Beach Talent Competition will be on July 26th, 27th, and 28th.

Entertainment

Glen French, Entertainment Coordinator, said the temporary stage is adequate and working. They are working through some power issues for the Seafood Festival and there may be a need for more seating for the Miss Hampton Beach and Talent competitions.

Signs for sponsors change every week. The bands are doing a good job recognizing the sponsors.

Commissioner Rage said people are talking about how excited they are that the new stage is coming.

June White

June White, 8 River Avenue, said she had heard rumors about cancelling the Fall Festival. She said the purpose of the Festival is to extend the season and help the businesses.

Commissioner Rage said at this time there isn't a venue for this. Also, the Chamber has been talking about having some type of carnival and tying it into the Festival. Ms. White said she would hope not to tie both of these events together. The purpose of the Fall Festival is to encourage people to go into the bars and restaurants.

Ms. White said that when John Gebhart moved money from General Government to Culture & Recreation he was correct in doing so. She said she had researched this with the State, the auditors, etc. Residents who are exempt have been getting overcharged on their taxes because all revenue has been coming out of Culture & Recreation only. Commissioner Rage said this will have to be researched and decisions made when the next budget is created. Mr. La Branche said when it comes time to take the books to the accountant this will be addressed.

Commissioner Buckley said she didn't feel the Fall Festival is very successful. Commissioner Buckley said that when the Events Coordinator candidate was asked if she would receive a percentage of the sponsorships, she replied she would not. According to the sheet detailing responsibilities, etc. for this position, it states that the Events Coordinator would receive 25% on sponsorships.

Commissioner Kubik said he felt it would be a big mistake to let the Fall Festival go. The goal has always been to extend the season. Commissioner Kubik said he was completely against cancelling this event.

Chairman Rage said it would be good to do something with the Chamber for this event. The event, as it has been, is just not big enough.

Commissioner Kubik said he felt the Precinct should again look into hiring an Events Coordinator. Chairman Rage agreed.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Chairman Rage said that Mr. Tim Jones had said the Precinct did not have an agreement with the Town for distribution of tax money. A memorandum of understanding has been drawn up which will be signed by both the Precinct and the Town.

Chairman Rage said he had talked to Selectman Nichols who said the Fire Department has donated fire records from 1925 to the Historical Society. Arthur Moody said that the records are the Precinct's to give. Chairman Rage said he feels these records are a great asset and should be given to the Historical Society.

Moved by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to donate the 1925 records of the Fire Department to the Historical Society.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Geannina Scanlan said she felt the Fall Festival should be held. Other events at the beach, i.e., the Seafood Festival, Sand Sculptures, etc. started out small. The goal is to extend the season. More people should get involved.

Commissioner Buckley said she felt a large problem with the Festival is that the businesses do not get involved. Commissioner Kubik said the businesses will get involved if they see a good plan coming together for the Festival.

Chairman Rage said it might be a good thing to skip the Festival this year and then come up with something more exciting next year. Commissioner Kubik said he felt it would be a big mistake to skip a year.

Chairman Rage said he would like to go back to discussion of the Treasurers' Agreement. This agreement states that the Town will pay the Precinct in three payments during the summer months and the balance at the end of the year. He asked the Commissioners to approve the signing of this agreement.

Moved by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to sign the Treasurers' Agreement.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Buckley said she wanted to make it clear that she had informed the Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee that she would not be present at their June meeting as Precinct Representative. Michael Pierce came forward and said that the Budget Committee has 12 elected members for whom meeting attendance is mandatory. The representatives from the Board of Selectmen, School Board and Precinct can attend if they so choose. However, it is advantageous for all if these representatives are in attendance.

Tim Jones, 16 Dustin Avenue, came forward. He said he felt that it was definitely a point of courtesy for representatives to attend meetings to which they have been assigned.

Mr. Jones said he would like to request an appointment for next month. Chairman Rage agreed.

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Mr. Jones said he acquired tax rate information for every property in Hampton and there seems to be a discrepancy in what is being taxed and the exempt list. Chairman Rage suggested that Mr. Jones go to the Assessor's Office to research this. Chairman Rage said he was not aware of any discrepancy. The Town is responsible for keeping the correct lists. The list kept by the Precinct was started at the time Mr. LaBranche became Treasurer. Mr. LaBranche said he would research the discrepancy.

Closing Comments

Greg Grady asked everyone to keep Terry Sullivan, who is ill, in their thoughts and prayers.

Michael Scanlan said he would suggest making the Fall Festival more of a farmers' market event. This could be done on four consecutive weekends. Arts and crafts are not a draw for a Fall Festival. Mr. Scanlan said he would do some research on this possibility.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary