

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
August 8, 2012**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Maureen Buckley, Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Steve LaBranche, Treasurer

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Beautification

Linda Gebhart referenced a Letter to the Editor expressing concern about the landscaping near the Memorial. Ms. Gebhart said she received permission from the Commissioners and the State to clear it out. It now looks much better and people have expressed their appreciation.

Phil Bryce, Director of Parks, looked at the beach landscaping and came back with an evaluation. Going forward, the State will put out a bid to replace some of the plants that have died. They will review how to protect the plants with barriers and determine appropriate maintenance. Ms. Gebhart said she will send a response to this report detailing what has worked for the Beautification Committee.

Ms. Gebhart said two trees need to be replaced. Churchill's is having a sale and if the trees are purchased from them, they will plant them free of charge. Ms. Gebhart said the banner at the entrance to the state park is still broken. Chairman Rage said he will take care of this.

Children's Week is next week. The events that had to be cancelled due to bad weather during the gala will be held from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Thursday, August 16th.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Commissioner Ladd noted that when you read the placards on the State side of the boulevard detailing events it gives the impression that the State is providing the events instead of the Village District. John Kane, Marketing Director, said he agreed with Commissioner Ladd, but the format is set by the State. Mr. Kane said it might be possible to discuss this with the State.

Commissioner Buckley discussed Movie Night and said it has really grown. She expressed thanks to those who started this event, Mary Durant and Ann Kane. Commissioner Rage said he has received many positive comments about Movie Night and it is important to remember that it is a free event.

Glen French said the deadline to audition for the Hampton Beach Talent Competition was last Friday. However, applications will be taken until next Monday evening. Mr. French said a tribute to Jack Knox will be held next Wednesday.

Commissioner Rage said there will be costumes available for children for the parade during Children's Week.

Commissioner Rage said there will be a vacancy on the Hampton Beach Area Commission for a Village District rep as Geannina Scanlan's term is ending and she does not wish to renew. Anyone who lives or has a business in the District who is interested should send a letter to the Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Buckley, seconded by Commissioner Ladd, to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2012.

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

Public Comment

State Representative Fred Rice said he was concerned about the ongoing discussions between the Town and the State regarding Hampton Beach. There are two agencies involved – DRED and DOT. Representative Rice said he has followed this closely and is frustrated that there has been no progress with DOT on the reconstruction of Ocean Blvd. There is a contract which has been in place since 1933 saying the State would be responsible. They agreed to build and maintain the roads. There is a great reluctance by DOT to do this.

Representative Rice said he has decided, if re-elected this fall, to introduce a piece of legislation to require DOT to abide by the contract signed in 1933. At this time, incumbent legislators can file bills in mid-September. Representative Rice asked for assistance from the Commissioners and Mr. Kane to compile details that are actual proof of damages to the businesses because of storms. This information is needed within two weeks. Commissioner Rage said the State has no problem building new sidewalks, but they don't want to do the maintenance.

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Commissioner Buckley said Mr. Bryce was going to hold a meeting at the end of the season and she would like Representative Rice to attend.

Ed St. Pierre said he felt it would be great if the final night of the talent competition could be televised. Everyone agreed.

Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Avenue, said he would like more details on the sewer rehab on the west side of Ashworth Avenue. Mr. Reniere asked what happened concerning the installation of decorative lighting along Ashworth Avenue. Commissioner Rage said it is in progress.

Closing Comments

Commissioner Buckley said she hoped that many people would attend the tribute to Jack Knox.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary