

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
July 8, 2015**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Stephen LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Rage asked for a Moment of Silence for Commissioner Buckley's brother and sister-in-law who passed away this past weekend.

Hampton Historical Society

Betty Moore, Hampton Historical Society, gave a presentation on the history of Hampton and Hampton Beach. The Town is now 377 years old and was settled by English farmers and fishermen. Today it is a bustling tourist center with all kinds of businesses and homes.

Ms. Moore said she would discuss an Unknown, a Well-Known, and a Hampton Beach Icon.

Ms. Moore told how Wallace Lovell was instrumental in developing the Beach. He purchased the Street Railway, built the Casino and Canobie Lake Park. He also built the Hampton River Bridge in 1901. Mr. Lovell died at the age of 56.

George Ashworth started the Avon Hotel in 1898. He was instrumental in forming the Hampton Beach Village District. He built the Ashworth Hotel in 1912. The hotel was rebuilt in 1919 and 1921 due to fires. Mr. Ashworth was a HBVD Commissioner from 1916 to 1917 and from 1925 until 1951. He was instrumental in the building of Centre School, in the formation of the Chamber of Commerce, and instituting Children's Day at the Beach.

Ms. Moore then discussed the Marine Memorial statue. This memorial is dedicated to those lost at sea. Alice Cosgrove was the artist who created the design. The statue was carved from a 25-ton piece of granite. The statue depicts a Gold Star mother laying a wreath at the sea. The memorial was dedicated in 1957 and ceremonies are conducted every year.

Ms. Moore then invited everyone to the 90th birthday party of the Hampton Historical Society to be held on July 18th. This will be a fundraising event for the Town Clock project in memory of Cliff Pratt.

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Mr. LaBranche noted that George Ashworth created a trust and every year the HBVD receives a check from that trust to be spent specifically on Children's Week.

Chairman Rage thanked Ms. Moore for her fine presentation.

Blue Ocean Discovery Center

Kathy Silva, Blue Ocean Discovery Center, said she was very proud that the Center was specifically mentioned in the Better Homes & Gardens poll of the best beaches. Hampton Beach was #6.

The season has started out well. There have already been 3,500 visitors to the Discovery Center. Yesterday two school groups did a beach clean-up. They worked for an hour and recovered 783 cigarette butts. Another group from WHS will do a clean-up at the playground tomorrow.

Ms. Silva said the Center is still in need of volunteers, particularly on the weekends.

Old Business

Commissioner Ladd complimented Betty Moore on her presentation.

Chairman Rage said there was a great crowd for Movie Night last night. People come to Hampton Beach to enjoy the many things available – concerts, fireworks, the playground, Movie Night, sand sculpture event, etc. The best part is that it is all free.

Chairman Rage requested ideas for next year for the period after July 4th when it temporarily quiets down at the Beach.

New Business

Commissioner Ladd said he feels there could be more signage listing HBVD events.

Chairman Rage said the flagpole has been ordered. The parking lot project is moving forward. A great rate of 2.75% was obtained.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of June 10, 2015 will be done at the next meeting when Commissioner Buckley will be in attendance.

Public Comment

Linda Gebhart said the Beautification Committee has been very busy. They have two teams who weed and water – The Lady Team and the Bridge Island Team. Tourists constantly comment on the beautiful flowers. Winter damage has been taken care of.

Ms. Gebhart said Skip Windimiller has graciously allowed the Hampton Arts Network to open an art gallery at his hotel. Sixteen local artists will have works on display.

Ute Pineo suggested having an informal meeting in September to form committees for the Vietnam Wall project.

Richard Reniere asked how the Village District establishes their parking rate. Chairman Rage replied that they are looking to make money but not to fleece people. For now there is a \$20 limit. The HBAC is working on a parking study at this time.

Brian Lapham said great thanks go to the Hampton Police Department for the wonderful job they did over the 4th of July. They were very professional

Closing Comments

Commissioner Ladd commented on the Fiddlers Philharmonic group who recently performed at the Sea Shell. Glen French, Entertainment Coordinator, said this group is comprised of 35 high school students. They travel and perform all over the country. They are very talented young people.

Chairman Rage thanked the Hampton Police Department and the Hampton Fire Department for the phenomenal job they did over the 4th of July. The Town is very fortunate to have them.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary