

DOWN EAST COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: Feb. 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: DEC meeting came to order at 7pm, UMC Williston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lillie Miller (Straits), Barbara Blake (Gloucester), Mark Eakes (M'berg), Janet Eakes (M'berg), Brandy Piner (Otway), Richard Lowdermilk (Atlantic), Brenda Lowdermilk (Atlantic), Art Noyes (Atlantic), Dave Boileau (Atlantic), Anthony Nelson (Harkers Island).

WELCOME: Lillie welcomes all. Barbara reads last month's minutes, which were accepted without change unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Items Update:

- Roads improvement. Mark: Hwy 12/70 from Cedar Island and Atlantic to East Carteret will be resurfaced this year with nice asphalt. By middle of summer the paving project will be ready to go. Bid getting ready to go out. N.River bridge bid will go out in March, 12.3 million project. Asked Reed with DOT about signage outside of right away, was told small sign not a big issue. Meeting tomorrow for town of Beaufort, will get more info. Bridge will go to north of existing bridge. Mark was told there's no money for ditch cleaning (DOT), not even flooding.
- Fisheries? BGB: no update on grant, but publicity update on fisheries in food magazine, "Edible Charlotte" which ran detailed article about pound netting with photos of Cedar Islanders fishing their pound net. Good example of interest, impact of heritage tourism.
- Coastal roadside market update: Mark said all would be fine at his store permit wise, but what about bathrooms? His store (Lookout Grocery) couldn't handle everyone who came in there. Lillie – maybe port-a-john.
- Mariners Park: Brenda – talked to Danny S who spoke w county commissioners who are interested in activating park for baseball, softball, and soccer. Nice park is all locked up now. Tennis courts. Bathrooms too. Being maintained but not used. Important to show an interest to get the park utilized again – 5K runs, children's Olympics? Stay tuned.
- Website: Lillie: still going, trying to get ads, 100 bucks a year. Will solicit from local businesses. Need postings to facebook page.
- Down East on County Boards: Mark reported that Tina Purifoy said Jonathan's position for Parks and Recreation board is up. Danny Styron serves on this board as well.
- Signs: Richard said it's in hands of county commissioners. It's on the agenda for this month, Feb 16, 6pm. Will be an "item for discussion" rather than a consensus item. People need to be there to show support. County has to request permission for welcome signs, not an organization like DEC. We want one sign on a county lot toward N. River bridge in the marsh. Won't interfere w/ bridge construction. Cedar Island side it'll go around curve travelling away from ferry on the right in marsh. Already secured permission – Harry M. and Tommy Fulcher own property and signed letter of agreement. A point of possible discussion is: if we allow DEC to have a sign, won't

all sorts of people approach us about their signs? Janet pointed out that Down East is competing with no one; we are a community like Newport or Beaufort but with no sign distinguishing us – we are asking for what everyone else already has. Question of fees, whether some municipalities have fees waived.

- SWC: Lillie told about trails committee w/ Art and others up the banks; will solicit local businesses for inclusion. Should integrate info about communities, e.g. history of Smyrna. Good way to promote the trails AND the businesses Down East.
- Electronic Waste bin Down East: James texted to say no response to his letter as of yet. Mark explained that he heard it had been discussed in the past, maybe get a pickup at Harkers Island twice a year. Mark brought up “adopt a highway” – why not DEC? Good advertising, free bags and gloves. Cleanup: **Mark will bring info to next meeting.**

Update on Action: Clam House site.

Williston Clam House update: Karen Amspacher will update at next meeting. County would like restrooms, maybe a closed system like Ocracoke. Will solicit public input. Lillie: Corey’s sign would be great there. Said Mark Smith mentioned site as a “clean water” shellfish site.

New Business: Lillie talked about the idea of a Down East-wide Christmas tour with community contests about lights, trolley tours through Down East, larger version of what Harkers Island did this year. Who wants to take this on as a project? Brenda says idea is great – this year Atlantic wants to do more, such as add flags on more side streets.

ACTION ITEM: Lillie: **do I hear a motion for DEC to take on this Christmas project? Motion made by Art. Brenda seconds the motion. All votes in affirmative, motion passes.**

Lillie brought RT reports, passed them out; suggests folks read over this report so we can discuss and take action on some of the recommendations.

Community updates:

Lillie: Photography club had great turnout, 25 people. One person from Morehead, rest from Down East. Susan Mason will help teach mini-session. 3rd Tues of every month at museum 7pm. Core Sound Museum is a partner, will help secure funds for field trips. Exhibition planned. Project: families as they come out of the church on Easter Sunday.

Lillie also said the Museum is planning a “run” of some sort (5K?) on Harkers Island – posted on their facebook page.

Anthony: fishing pier on Straits channel is in the dark with no lights. A danger to night kids, etc. Carteret-Craven Electric engineering dept. is doing a cost analysis. Danny presented it to Parks and Rec. They want something from Council in support of it. Solar perhaps? LED? County would pay for it. Mark: maybe could get free lights from area in Beaufort that just got torn up – all those lights are getting thrown away. Boy Scouts are building picnic tables and gazebo for that area as a project. County will

decide what kind of light. Barbara raised concerns about light pollution, save our night skies. Dave suggested we stipulate “appropriate” lighting in letter. Anthony gave notes to Lillie to work on a draft.

Atlantic: we expressed sympathy to community for loss of Janice Smith.

Gloucester: BGB told about the upcoming Gloucester Mardi Gras Feb. 14.

Lillie encouraged DEC members to attend the Board of Commissioners meeting this month.

Next Meeting: March 2, 7pm. Gloucester Community Center.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned 8:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Garrity-Blake, Secretary