

DOWN EAST COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: March 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: DEC meeting came to order at 7pm, GCC, Gloucester.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lillie Miller (Straits), Barbara Blake (Gloucester), Richard Lowdermilk (Atlantic), Art Noyes (Atlantic), Dave Boileau (Atlantic), Nancy Lewis (Davis), James Morris (Straits), Tom Hesselink (Mberg), Ken Humphreys Marshallberg, Katlyn Lewis (Nancy's niece), Williston.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Items Update:

- Roads improvement. No report.
- Fisheries? BGB: no update on grant.
- Coastal roadside market update: Tom asked for update? None. This needs to get going.
- Mariners Park:
- Drug dropoff: James Morris will talk to Rich Roseheim about drug drop off day in Otway
- Website
- Down East on County Boards:
- Signs: Richard Lowdermilk, who met w DOT today, introduced artist Ken Humphrey, chosen to do the Down East welcome sign. Ken discussed ideas and solicited input for the sign, re: color, shading, etc. Discussed possibility of tee-shirts w/ design, proceeds could help pay for sign. Lillie: we need to raise money for project. Suggests we become an organized association with Fed ID to open a checking account to collect money. A non-profit association. 60 day turn-around, and we can open a checking acct. Letter/ form to atty general, \$5 fee, online. Donations are tax deductible. Ken suggests crowd sourcing to solicit support from Down East. James: cost? Richard: 5k just for the sign, maybe **6k total**. Art: need to set aside a little for maintenance. Ken wants to be sure to be consistent with the beauty of DE, not seen as a big sign sticking in the marsh. Richard: Scenic Byway wants a natural look. Barbara told about the success of Kickstarter for Coastal Voices. Business sponsors could be listed on DE website. Boat on sign: number will be date of oldest DE community.
- SWC: Ken Humphrey asked what SWC is, Barbara explained.
- Electronic Waste bin Down East: No reply from county manager, **James will pursue this with someone who serves on county advisory board with him.**
- Scholarship: DE Entrepreneur Award (Tom Hesselink): \$ award to HS senior interested in staying here to start a business or join family business. Idea is to help DE businesses; why ask them to shoulder all the costs? Last year we raised 500 dollars from business contributions. Chandler Taylor winner last year, lawn care business. Ace Hardware donated materials (\$500 value) plus \$100 from business supplying materials. Rushed last year. This year, let's get community support

and build more money, not all on one business. Maybe get a photo/update of Chandler to help promote the effort this year, for paper and website.

Tom: what's up with the Dept. of Commerce/ EDC planning? Lillie: were supposed to meet in Feb, stay tuned.

Motion: James Morris makes a motion to become a non-profit association, Tom H seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Art and Richard agree to get the process started. Title: Down East Council. Need a treasurer? Decide to use current's chair's address, 1536 HI ROAD, BEAUFORT, NC 28516. Bgb suggests Community Bank (Brandy) and perhaps Brandy will agree to be treasurer. James Morris agrees that would be nice.

New Business:

Ken: Eagle Scout looking for something to do. If you hear of a need, let the Scouts know!

ACTION ITEM

Community updates:

Next Meeting: April 13 (to avoid meeting near Easter), 7pm. .

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Garrity-Blake, Secretary and Lillie Chadwick Miller, President.