

## DOWN EAST COUNCIL MINUTES

**DATE:** June 1, 2015

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lillie Miller (Straits), Barbara Blake (Gloucester), Richard Lowdermilk (Atlantic), Brenda Lowdermile, Art Noyes (Atlantic), Thom Styron (Otway), Bob Geller, new to Marshallberg, Barbara Blake, Gloucester. **WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order.

Tom Hesselink read the minutes from May (Lillie and Barbara were absent): Nancy, Art, Dave, Mark E, James and Tom in attendance. James gave a sign report. Called the pharmacy, pharms online to establish pick ups on a certain day. Talked about open air market at Lookout Grocery. Tom went to Lookout and saw eight people on the sign-up sheet. Cost? Not sure. Underground Farms, Bad Duck, and others. June 13 will be the first one. Need money for a sign. Mark will divide parking lot and give people space. People will be responsible for their own tents. 110 % for tee shirts for DEC fundraiser. Shirt will have sign design. Will get 36 shirts or more. Barbara will donate a box of GMG CDs for Tom to sell as well. Need fundraiser for the sign.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Action Items Update:

- Roads improvement: nothing
- Fisheries? Bgb told about maritime heritage grant, Lillie says talk to Giles, Bob Geller told about blockade runner that landed in Smyrna. Atlantic: Ellen Cloud.
- Coastal roadside market update: see above. How promoted? Compass Points, Swap Shop, FB.
- Mariner's Park: Brenda asked if Danny S is still on advisory board of parks and rec. Bob Geller said someone wants to establish disk golf at Mariner's Park. Easy and cheap.
- Community website/DECNews: Needs someone to help.
- Community clean sweep: Sept/Oct
- Drug drop-off: James said he'd call about that again.
- Aquaculture letter: Lillie wrote one for DEC in support of this, but left it home. Will circulate.
- Sign: Ken working w Neil at sign shop. Richard passed around versions: 2 black and white, 1 color. Barbara likes b and w, as the color will blend in with the marsh. Thom talked about land grant map for earliest date. Cedar Island site approved. N. River bridge, prob w CAMA permit. Still in works. Need to apply for minor permit, which will be denied but then you go thru variance process. County owns marshland, part of their lot. June 3, Wed, deadline to submit letter to request variance for hearing for July meeting. Points to include in letter: key words "cannot function elsewhere", 1. how does it create a hardship? Bushes block it. Trying to portray unique features of DE – sign in marsh. Argue that it's the gateway. 2. Do hardships result from conditions particular to this property? Yes, it's a marsh – the whole gateway area is a marsh. 3.

Hardship result from actions taken by actions of DEC or county? 4. Will variance be consistent with spirit of regs? Yes – minimal impact. Celebrates natural beauty of unique, undeveloped region of DE. Scenic byway signs should go up late fall. Kiosk will have a sign “welcome to DE”. “Welcome to HI”. Proceed w/ variance? Heck yes! Vote July 15. Takes 6 to 8 weeks to make the sign. [need 10K for two – Lillie suggests donations from communities for buy-in. Ken volunteered to do a crowd funding site. Let’s discuss next meeting. Letters to churches, etc.

- Non-profit: bank account not yet opened.
- Electronic Waste bin Down East:
- Scholarship:
- Clam house: Russell O can’t come on Monday, maybe he can next meeting on Tues.
- SWC: Outer Banks Trails continues to build.

### **New Business:**

Discussion on how golf carts can be read-legal for the road. Towns decide – for DE it would be a county decision. Reports of arrests and fines. Can’t drive on side of road either because state owns right-of-way.

### **Community Updates?**

**Motion: meeting adjourned at 8:30. Next meeting July 7 Tuesday.**

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