

DOWN EAST COUNCIL MINUTES

February 10, 2014

- Call to Order** A meeting of the Down East Council (DEC) was called to order on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Williston UMC Fellowship Hall. Members present: Mark Hooper, DEC President, Barbara Blake, interim DEC Secretary; Tom Hesselink; Nancy Lewis; Lillie Miller, and Richard Lowdermilk.
- Welcome** President Mark Hooper welcomed all in attendance.
- Old Business** President Mark Hooper asked Barbara Blake, SWC representative, to give an update on the status on the Noonmark brochure and Hot Wilmington trails website, as well as the recent NC Catch summit. He also asked how the OBX Scenic Byway was going; Lillie Miller (member of the OBNSB committee) reported on progress and suggested folks Down East are not fully aware of the byway. Tom asked about the status of DEBA; Lillie said it was difficult getting business owners motivated, but the website showed steady traffic. The group discussed a rumor that the “Doodler” (store on corner of 70 and Atlantic road) was sold; Richard Lowdermilk will try to get verification and details.
- New Business** Mark Hooper, Tom Hesselink, and Barbara Blake briefed attendees on recent meetings with NC Dept of Commerce reps and Myles Stempin, Exec Director of the Carteret County EDC. They explained that the county is undergoing a community-by-community strategic planning process, and wants to focus on Down East via a survey and meetings hosted by the DEC. Their work will be based on the SWC Resource Team report; updated and modified with information gathered at meetings and through surveying. They will attend the March 3rd DEC meeting to introduce themselves and explain the process. Survey results will be presented at the April 7 DEC meeting, and the final plan at the May 5 meeting. The group agreed that the March 3 meeting should be at the new Scout hut; Nancy Lewis will ask Paul Murphy if this is possible. Backup site: Williston UM Church. The group also discussed having a BBQ for the “unveiling” of the plan in April to gain exposure Down East, and the need to get DE Community News going again and info about DEC in the community columns of the Carteret News Times.
- Mark Hooper solicited nomination for DEC President, Vice President, and Secretary. Richard Lowdermilk nominated Tom Hesselink for President, but Tom declined. Having no further nominations, Mark Hooper explained James Morris agreed to be a nominee if no other nominations were made. Richard L. nominated Tom for Vice President, and Mark Hooper nominated Lillie Miller for Secretary. A vote was held, and the new slate

of 2014 officers was elected unanimously. President: James Morris; Vice President: Tom Hesselink; Secretary: Lillie Miller.
The next DEC meeting will take place on March 3, location TBA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Blake, Interim Secretary