

DOWN EAST COUNCIL MINUTES

March 24, 2014

Call to Order A meeting of the Down East Council (DEC) was called to order on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Gloucester Community Club. Attending were: *James Morris, Tom Hesselink, Lillie Miller, Karen Amspacher, Barbara Garrity-Blake, Robin Pitten, Gay Mason, Nancy Lewis, Anthony Nelson.*

Welcome President James Morris called the meeting to order. Each attendee introduced themselves.

Old Business Karen Amspacher will bring more Resource Reports for new members.

SWC report: Karen Amspacher presented information regarding SWC and the accomplishments over the last four years.

Scenic Byway Report: Karen Amspacher also explained the Byway, progress made (signage, etc). Barbara gave a review of Coastal Voices – oral histories of the communities. Training is provided for those that want to participate in the process to gather oral histories. For Down East, the “Roadshow” has met with each community to scan old photos and gather stories.

There will be a meeting Thursday (on Ocroake) to discuss “Trails” for the scenic byway and Friday a reassessment meeting to discuss the future of SWC.

James Morris brought up the issue on how to make Down East residents more aware of what’s going on with the Council, the scenic byway, and issues facing Down East. Suggestions made were:
Anthony Nelson suggested that in conjunction with the community nights at the museum; incorporate Facebook to promote the Council and what the council is working on/projects, etc. Facebook needs to be updated at least weekly; Put together material about the council to be included in the survey; Use the News Times to advertise what the council is doing; Have the meeting (with food) to hear survey results and promote the council.

DECN Report:

Will be resurrected first of April.

New Business Presentation of County Strategic Planning Process by Zack and
Schedule of process
April 1 – April 21: Surveys out
May 5: Present result
June meeting – big group

Additional reporting by Karen Amspacher:

Progress Points

Paddle Trail map

Scenic Byway Heritage Trails

Williston Clam house: With the help of Mikki Sager and County commissioners and work with marine corp. – to buy the property (60% of the total cost)– 89 acres – 5 acres buildable – county will own it once the remaining funds are available.

Coastal Federation interested in working on shoreline.

The use of the building will be discussed.

James Morris' goals:

A sign “Down East” in place within the first year

Sign would include all names of communities

Asked for input –

Next meeting April 7 - Gloucester Community Club

May 5 – longer meeting with food – and presentation of results

June 2 – adoption/acceptance of updated plan

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Lillie Chadwick Miller, Secretary