

LONG BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2022

Board Attendees: Richard Wilder, Torben Huges-Jensen, Cathy Collins, Patti Oehmke, Mieke Rockhill, Jolene Lauria, Paul Murdoch, Mary Millison Pritchard, Steve Perlik

CALL TO ORDER: 10:03am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial report (attached to these minutes) was distributed to attendees and Cathy Collins, Treasurer, explained every itemized transaction (disbursements and deposits). Voice Vote approved and accepted the financial statements.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Certified Master Beekeeper, Diane Wellons provided a fascinating presentation with lots of interaction/questions from attendees. Diane came to beekeeping when she discovered that good honey helped send her disabling Lyme disease into remission. She explained how honey bees differ from other types of bees. A slide show provided more details, taxonomy and anatomy of honey bees, and the best type of native flowering plants for their forage. She described the social order within the hive, the life of the Queen, drones, worker bees and larvae and their communication by pheromones. Pesticides used by agricultural/urban landscapes have adversely impacted the health and lives of bees. Purchasers of “organic” honey, need to know that bees could have foraged from plants laden with neonicotinoids because they fly up to 4 miles from the hive. Many beekeepers will have fields of wild flowers near the hive so the bee does not have to travel far and help control their exposure to pesticides. Bees have also been plagued by mites and parasites, a good beekeeper maintains the health of the hive. If you have a nest of bees that need to be removed, call Diane and she will remove the hive. Attend Diane’s “Beekeeper for a Day” class at her farm/apiary in Leonardtown that has 25 hives. She also sells starter kits for beginner beekeepers. Click the links provided in this email to visit the website deezltownbees.com and to download a [brochure](#) from Maryland Dept. Natural Resources on flowering plants that help bees (and butterflies and hummingbirds) to use for your landscaping.

MOSQUITO CONTROL DEADLINE

Richard Wilder started the regular meeting with a reminder that today is the Mosquito Control deadline for the submission of a form to be exempted from the mosquito spraying or another form that gives permission to enter your property (if you would like a long driveway to be sprayed). The LBCA pays the County to spray our community’s private roads.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

Debbie Berens provided an update on activities in our community:

- Meat sale scam – Someone comes to your door selling meat from their car and they take your money and drive away. No meat.
- The Safety meeting that Debbie will attend on May 9th features a speaker from Animal control.
- Crime stats continue to be going down.
- Debbie requested a litter pickup from the County for the last half of Long Beach Road. Paul Murdock noted that anyone can call the county to have litter picked up on County Roads and

suggests calling the main number to get the operator to transfer your call, he has had trouble with the department not picking up the phone if you dial them directly.

- Two Saturdays ago, someone hosted a fireworks display at 10:30pm on the North beach. We don't know who set off the fireworks and they did attempt to clean up after themselves, but a trash can was destroyed by melting when they placed hot fireworks in it. Cathy Collins is working on getting that trash can replaced.

OLD BUSINESS

- Spring Work Day – May 14 – List of Projects Needed – we want to see as many people as possible – we usually clean up North Beach, South Beach, Community Center as well as a few other projects. Please send any suggested projects to lbcamd2018@gmail.com by 4/30/22.
- New Community Billboard will be installed in the next couple of days. It will be bigger and nicer than the old one which was falling apart. The sign will have sections for Flag Harbor and a Day Care Center post signs/notices. Paul Murdoch mentioned that the County took down a lot of the little business signs along the roads, and that election signs for political candidates will remain. The other small signs are considered an obstruction by the County until after the election.

NEW BUSINESS

- New LBCA Website – Patti Oehmke announced that a new community website will be launched by the May meeting. A trial website is currently being reviewed by the LBCA board. Patti is forming a Website Team of volunteers who are not board members who will provide a review of the website after the Board's review is complete. The Website Team will handle future website projects as it evolves. Facebook will also be revamped and maintained by the Website Team.
- The County has installed new street signs in our community – a blue street sign with a star denotes the private roads in our community.
- LBCA Meeting with Flag Harbor: Richard Wilder summarized a meeting that was held between Flag Harbor and 4 members of the LBCA Board (Richard Wilder, Torben Huge-Jensen, Mieke Rockhill and Jolene Lauria). The discussion covered:
 - The blue hang tags issued by Flag Harbor to slip owners to permit them to shuttle their boat gear with a quick stop at the North Beach parking lot and then return their car to the Marina's parking Lot. That was the original intention. Now, there is no program to track how many blue hang tags are being distributed, slip-holders' cars are parked in the Beach Lot and NOT returned to the Marina's Lot. Blue hang tags have been spotted in other LBCA owned parking lots
 - The slips owners actually own real estate in a condo association, with property taxes being paid to the County; some slip-owners would be interested in purchasing a full LBCA membership which would eliminate the need for the Marina to issue any hang tags.
 - Marina Pool Membership for the community at large was another topic discussed. Controlling how many people could use the pool at one time is an issue because the size of the pool is inadequate to accommodate large crowds. There was no decision on this.
 - Richard thanked Donny Donaldson for suggesting the LBCA membership for slip owners at Flag Harbor. These discussions are on-going and the community will be provided timely updates.
 - Attendee Comment: we should be allowed to park in the Marina's lot if slipholders can park in LBCA lots.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Rude Behavior: Mariam Reyes, a new property owner, and her family were accosted by a property owner in the North Beach Parking Lot as she was proudly showing her parents the beaches when they came to visit her new home. Mariam told the room that a woman tried to chase them from the beach saying that Mariam's family did not belong here, even after Mariam explained that she was a new homeowner and was just trying to show her parents the community beaches. Miriam stated that some of the comments from this woman were racist in nature as she insisted that Mariam's family leave the beach. Remembering the experience brought tears to Mariam's eyes as she shared the embarrassment, offense and hurt she felt. Many people in the room were deeply touched, and appalled that someone in our community would be treated this way. Mariam was offered assurances that her family is most welcome and that the person who accosted her was demonstrating aberrant behavior that was not the norm for our community. Mariam stated that when she took her parents to the other beach (South Beach), they were treated with friendliness and kindness.
- Jerry Garnsey stated that he felt his road fees were extraordinary. Richard Wilder replied that he and other members of the Board are willing to meet with anyone who has road fee concerns individually. Richard offered to review plats, deeds and covenants to show how the LBCA came up with each individual's road fees. He stated that the LBCA is proactively reviewing certain properties with corner lots that may have been set up incorrectly in their covenants. All fees were calculated from the original covenants. Richard stated that we have devoted the entire meeting agenda for the past 3 meetings to discuss changes to road fees and membership dues and now any discussions should be on an individual basis.
 - Jerry then stated that he does not choose to go to a website for information on road fees and wants the LBCA to do more newsletters. He wants flat fees for each property instead of the fees stipulated in the covenants. He stated that he has never looked at his deed or covenant. He does not like having an additional fee on top of the county taxes he pays or that hang-tags are now separated from road fees. He envisions being unable to find a parking space even if he purchases hang tags when the beach lots get full in the summer.
 - Richard responded that full parking lots (more often at the South Beach) has been a problem at times in the past, with or without changes to parking passes. Richard reiterated that he or another Board member would meet with anyone on a one-on-one basis. Richard reported that he was dismayed by the behavior at the March Meeting when he listened to the recording of the meeting (which he was unable to attend). Shouting and over-talking one another will NOT be tolerated at the meetings, the expectation for mutual respect between the all-volunteer board and attendees is not too much to ask, "give us the same respect we give you". Meetings will be ended if offensive behavior overtakes the meeting in lieu of constructive conversation.
 - When Patti Oehmke asked Jerry if he gets the emails from the LBCA, Diane Daly jumped in and stated that it is up to the board to alert its citizens. In a loud voice she complained about a lack of transparency and that she finds the board's communications lacking. The meeting devolved at that point to people talking over one another in loud voices; Richard Wilder called the meeting OVER at 11:32am.

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 11, 2022

Respectfully Submitted:

Richard Wilder, President

Patti Oehmke, Secretary

