

FINAL

DAVIS PARK ASSOCIATION  
SPRING MEETING  
MAY 18, 2013

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CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum being present, the President called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. An agenda and a financial report were distributed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 28, 2012 Fall Meeting of Members were approved.

The President welcomed the members and commented on the DPA's ongoing efforts to assist in mitigating the devastating effects of Superstorm Sandy on our community.

New homeowners introduced themselves. Members were urged to consider registering to vote from the beach to enhance our ability to influence events affecting the community.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

The budget vote will be held on Tuesday from 3 to 9 p.m. in Ocean Beach. John Lund informed the members that although our school district is one on the most expensive per pupil in the country, the loss of our own district would cause a dramatic rise in our school district taxes. By law, all communities must belong to a school district. We currently pay school taxes at a rate of \$23.05 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Were we to become part of the Patchogue school district, our taxes would increase tenfold to \$223.88 per \$100. Our school has diminishing

enrollment, but currently 12 students from the mainland are enrolled. It is crucial to vote to approve the current district budget and keep our FI district functioning.

MEMBERSHIP

Dues have been received from 170 members to date.

TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

Councilman and homeowner Tim Mazzei introduced Tax Assessor Jim Ryan and Marty Hailey of the Building Department.

Jim Ryan made the following report. The March 1 tax assessments valued property as it exists on Town records. The Sandy Relief Act pending before the state legislature may address this issue. If you lost a home or have not made all necessary repairs, you can raise that and adjustments to your assessment will be made over the summer. Homeowners can then file a grievance with the Board of Assessors, if necessary. Notices will be provided. The Building Department has established damage percentages which will be applied to the entire property, including land. If you have substantially repaired or replaced your home, the Town will assess at your prior valuation, regardless of upgrades in materials, etc. Jim urged homeowners to reach out to him with any issues. He will personally negotiate any grievances. Jim can be reached at 631-451-6321 (Maria is his secretary) and [jryan@brookhaven.org](mailto:jryan@brookhaven.org).

Marty Hailey of the Town Building Department reported as follows: As a general rule, if your structure was legal you can rebuild. However, there are other issues if you are in a Coastal Erosion Hazard Area ("CEHA"). State law requires every building to have a permit. The Building Dept. will issue permits immediately, and will not interfere with emergency stabilization measures. Otherwise, a permit is required. They will expedite requests, and attempt to work out situations where a structure did not have a permit originally. A typical permit application is determined by the Town, without FINS involvement. However, all variance information goes to FINS.

The Department will not interfere with raising houses to meet FEMA requirements. The maximum building height is 28 feet measured from the new floor height.

Tim Mazzei volunteered to assist anyone having a problem with building or other Town issues. Tim also advised that the Highway Department had decided not to complete the rebuilding of beach access walks on the assumption that the Army Corps dune rebuilding project would occur in the Fall and require the walks to be rebuilt again. It appeared that saving money was the real impetus for the decision. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding how best to reverse this decision in light of the damage to the costly Trapbag project that would ensue without walkways and the unlikelihood of the Corps project occurring this year. Tim

agreed to pursue the issue with Highway Superintendent Dan Losquadro.

Tim also responded to ongoing concerns about the derelict Lane house on Dune Walk.

John Lund recommended that homeowners make sure they have, or take steps to acquire, a Certificate of Occupancy or Existing Use as well as a Certificate of Elevation.

#### FINS

Chief Ranger Lena Koschmann addressed the meeting. The Rangers have oversight responsibility for such things as fire protection, lifeguards, law enforcement and medical emergencies. Federal sequestration is having a budget impact, requiring a shorter lifeguard season, staffing cuts and fewer law enforcement personnel.

Regarding the breach, FINS had originally determined to support NY State if it chose to close the breach at state expense. FINS, NY State and Suffolk County then agreed to a breach management plan of 90 day monitoring to allow the breach to close naturally. Within that period, it appeared that the breach was closing, that is, it was starting to shoal up. The current protocol is that the State must request the Army Corps to close it. FINS would oppose any efforts to artificially keep the breach open through the use of hard structures. The National Park Service, FINS and the Army Corps are all in agreement that

the breach should be closed but have not established a timetable for when this should be accomplished.

#### FIRE DISTRICT

Commissioner Jon Brown addressed the meeting. The Fire Department is hampered by the breach in that it cannot access the community from Smith Point. This is of particular concern during the winter months. The District and Department went through a big learning curve with the storm. Among other things, the loss of our water system demonstrated the need to refurbish the old well system, which is now being done. The next budget will be approximately \$150,000, up 2%. The current pneumatic fire alarm system is nearing the end of its useful life. A \$27,000 bid has been awarded for a new electronic siren.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Matt Jones addressed the meeting. Having been inducted last October, the Chief has had an eventful tenure so far. The Chief recapped the DPF'D's extraordinary efforts to assist the community with health and safety, damage assessment, debris removal and access issues, among many others, over the winter in the aftermath of Sandy. Thanks to the DPF'D for all their efforts on behalf of the community.

Homeowners are reminded to be observant of fire hazards. When calling 911 from a mobile phone, be certain to state your

location. (Unlike older phones, newer ones will take the location of the call from a GPS.)

To thank the community for its support, the Department will host an open house tomorrow from 1 to 3 p.m.

#### EROSION CONTROL

The DPA Board convened over the winter to assess damage and facilitate efforts to recover from Sandy. Along with several other FI communities, the DPA Board decided on the Trapbag System, a new set of dunes along the entire beachfront, as an emergency erosion control measure. The cost, funded from the ECD, will amount to \$250,000-300,000 for purchase, installation, fencing and planting. FEMA reimbursement will be requested.

The DPA also funded from its treasury a massive debris cleanup along the beachfront in order to allow the Trapbag project to proceed, facilitate the Army Corps cleanup and protect the remaining homes and occupants from the dangers of floating debris throughout the community.

The DPA and the Ferry Company also collaborated on providing beach access to homeowners throughout the winter. Thanks to the Shermans for their contributions.

A discussion ensued regarding the remaining debris and brush piles throughout the community. A number of volunteers agreed to work on cleanup.

FEMA has now stepped back from dune/beach repair efforts and the Army Corps has stepped in with plans to fund and extensive repair and dune rebuilding project on FI. Further details will be provided as they become available.

VECTOR CONTROL

Larviciding has started. Fogging will take place on Tuesdays in July and August.

OTHER BUSINESS

The DPA will install new red Keep Off The Dunes signs.

The Parade will take place on July 4th, with a BBQ to follow for participants. This is a DPA event with many DPF and other community volunteers. Thanks to all for their donations and help.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

  
Secretary