

FINAL

DAVIS PARK ASSOCIATION  
SPRING MEETING  
MAY 17, 2014

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CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum being present, the President called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. An agenda and a financial report were distributed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 21, 2013 Fall Meeting of Members were approved. The minutes are available on the DPA website: [www.davispark.org](http://www.davispark.org).

New homeowners introduced themselves. Homeowners were reminded of the importance of at least one person per home registering to vote from her or his DP/OR address so as to enhance the community's voice with our elected officials and have a say in local elections affecting the community.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was reviewed. The DPA expended \$24,000 to clear the dunes of debris following Superstorm Sandy. The Town has agreed to repay those funds to the DPA and seek reimbursement from FEMA.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

The school budget vote is May 20th. The DPA recommends supporting the budget request because school district taxes would rise dramatically if we lost our FI school and were

combined with a mainland district. The school is recruiting from the mainland and now has full enrollment.

#### TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

Councilman and homeowner Tim Mazzei addressed the members. The Town will be chipping and clearing the brush pile that has grown up between East and Trustees Walks. Tim will work with the DPA in attempting to refurbish the current children's playground and assist with the new recreational area, but cited budgetary constraints. Tim will also work on clearing the ad hoc dump at the Marina, and noted that this was a problem created by homeowners and their contractors.

Tim also responded to questions from the members regarding the deplorable state of our boardwalks and cement crossings, and other issues, including the derelict Lane house on Dune Walk.

#### FIA

FIA President Suzy Goldhirsch addressed the members and praised the contributions of Bob Spencer, John Lund and Mary Parker to the FIA. Every community faces problems with its walkways in the aftermath of Sandy and shares our level of frustration with Town efforts, but we have a unique resource in Tim Mazzei and his staff, in particular, Lucy Murphy.

The number 1 issue facing the Fire Island communities is shore management on both ocean and bay side, as the bay side is equally imperiled by erosion.

The second issue is managing our stewardship of the island. We are in partnership with FINS, with which the FIA cooperates and works jointly, although our entities must sometimes agree to disagree.

Suzy reminded the members of the need to join and support the FIA (\$90 per year) in its efforts on behalf of the communities.

### FINS

Suzy then introduced FINS Superintendent Chris Soller, who is a Fire Island homeowner and a supporter of the residential communities.

Chris outlined plans underway for Watch Hill, including a rebuilt walk from Ocean Ridge, rebuilding the marina and dredging the channel, with sand to be placed on the Ocean Ridge beach. FINS is very aware of the need for bayside restoration but was unable to timely complete the permitting necessary to place the dredged sand on the bayside.

Chris then discussed the FIMI and FIMP projects. \$700 million has been allocated to accomplish these major dune building projects. However, as a matter of policy, no dunes will be built on federal land (except for some small western reaches). FIMI (Fire Island to Moriches Inlet) is an interim project, to be followed by the overall FIMP project (Fire Island to Montauk Point).

The current timeline (handout prepared by the Saltaire Village Manager) has construction starting in or about October 2014 at Robert Moses state park, and Smith Point County Park. Federal, state and local agencies reached the necessary overall agreement yesterday. The federal Fish & Wildlife Service must now prepare a final report.

Real estate matters are a major piece of the project and must be completed before the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) can accomplish dune building in the communities. Easements from dune property owners are required for ACE to enter the property for dune construction and maintenance.

As FINS Superintendent, and with the inter-agency agreement that has been reached, Chris will issue a park permit for the project to go forward. Suzy noted that while the communities would have preferred certain changes, the project has required a balancing of competing interests.

In all 702 easements are required, over 400 of which are from private owners. The easements will be "perpetual" (i.e., through the life of the project) for ongoing maintenance and to allow periodic renourishment in the FIMP project. The easements should be viewed as positive in that the purpose is to protect the dunes and insure that the dune structure can be rebuilt. The easements are not a transfer of ownership rights but rather a right to enter the property for a specified purpose. Because

ownership will remain intact, the dune area will still count toward a property's square footage for building purposes. Existing walkways over the dunes can also be rebuilt in compliance with local codes. Property owners receive the benefit of enhanced dune protection. Moreover, most of the land subject to easement is in the coastal erosion hazard area (CEHA) and cannot be built on in any event. Suzy noted that the FIA has hired a land use attorney to advise on the current easement draft.

Suzy also commented on the FEMA issue. After Sandy, when \$700 million was authorized for an ACE project, Fire Island was no longer eligible for a FEMA project. FIMI is a much larger project than the FEMA repair project would have been, and is 100% federally funded, as opposed to a FEMA project where the communities would have been responsible for 12.5% of the costs. Finally, if the FIMP project is initiated, we will have a shore management policy for the next 20-25 years.

Regarding bayside erosion, it was noted that the littoral drift is from west to east. FINS is dealing with the effect of bulkheads which interfere with the drift and create scouring.

The inlet/breach is the subject of internal scoping for a full EIS for long term decision-making, considering the impact of the breach on life, property, wildlife etc.

Finally, Chris noted that over the next year FINS will celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding, on September 11, 2014.

#### FIRE DISTRICT

Commissioner Jon Brown addressed the meeting. Jon urged homeowners to have working fire extinguishers and be particularly vigilant about fires, as our hydrants are not pumping enough water. The #7 truck is in service.

The next budget will be approximately \$149,700, down from \$153,800 last year. The Commissioners recognize that there has been a loss of assessed value in the community due to Sandy which must be made up by current owners.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Matt Jones addressed the meeting. The breach has posed hardships for the Department during the past winter with the bay frozen. Accessing the community takes more than 1 1/2 hours driving from the west. The DPFD has therefore enhanced mutual aid with the western communities.

Homeowners are reminded to be observant and check their homes for fire hazards. Never hesitate to call 911 if you suspect a fire. The DPFD is happy to come and find nothing wrong. When calling 911 from a mobile phone, be certain to state your location.

To thank the community for its support and donations, the DPFD will host an open house today from 1 to 3 p.m.

EROSION CONTROL

A new line of snow fencing has been installed in Davis Park and is going up in Ocean Ridge. The ECD has funded this in conjunction with the BITS fund.

CRAB

Jayne Robinson informed the members of the creation of CRAB -- Community Recreation, Arts & Beautification, Inc. -- a 501c(3)entity formed to enhance the quality of life in our community. CRAB will engage in fund raising activities and seek tax deductible contributions to pursue recreation, arts and beautification projects in collaboration with the DPA and other community organizations. Further details to come.

VECTOR CONTROL

Larviciding has started. Fogging will take place on Tuesdays in July and August. The Damminix project covers 70% of the community in fighting disease-causing ticks. All are urged to participate.

OTHER BUSINESS

The ferry company has applied to the Suffolk County legislature for a rate increase.

Volunteers are needed for community cleanup on May 18th at 10 a.m., and Beautification Committee planting on May 24th at 10 a.m.

The Swap and Shop will be held on June 7th.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

  
Secretary