***STRATHMERE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION***

**Minutes of General Meeting**

**Friday, July 21, 2017**

The meeting began at 7:45 p.m. with the flag salute led by Tom Leonard. Board members present included Linda Bateman, President; Janice Connell, Donna Diefenderfer, Janet Mahley, and Rosemarie Whelan. Including Board members, about 50 people were in attendance.

Prior to the start of the meeting, refreshments were served.

**Introduction of Board Members**

The Board members introduced themselves to the audience. Elections will take place in August.

**Secretary’s Report** – Rosemarie Whelan

The Secretary stated that the minutes of the August 19, 2016 meeting had been emailed with the last newsletter, and hard copies were available at this meeting. Butch Vandegrift made a motion to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Herb Hollinger. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Donna Diefenderfer

As of Jan. l, 2017 – Balance $4,702.74

Total Income 4,434.79

Disbursements 3,833.90

Closing Balance 5,303.63

Scholarship Fund 1,028.39

Tom Leonard made a motion to approve the report, which was seconded by Debbie Vandegrift. The motion carried.

**President’s Remarks**

**Old Business**

July 4th Parade – There were 84 entries according to Karen Mitchell, Parade Chairperson. Linda remarked that “it was a great day with a wonderful turnout.”

Fundraising – Hats and visors were available at the meeting at a cost of $15.00. Insulated bags were also available.

Township Interaction – At the urging of the SIA, Upper Township passed a resolution opposing the proposed toll increase on the bridges. The SIA also sent letters to area legislators; Sea Isle City’s Committee and the Freeholders also opposed it.

E-Z Pass and the toll increase were postponed.

Boat Ramp – Whale Creek and Taylor Ave. Boat Ramps will remain open.

Water Tower – This has been cleaned.

Jitney – There is now a stop at Whale Beach.

SIA Stories – Linda stated that “it is continuing.” She also encouraged members to check out a camera. We want to “preserve as much history as our storytellers would like to share with us.”

**New Business**

501C3 Status - Janice Connell commented that Phil Mills has volunteered to work with us to obtain a 501C3 status.

With a 501C3, the SIA would not have to pay taxes on any money that the Association generated, and members may deduct dues and donations.

Nominating Chair – Marion Ingram – Her email address is

[marion.ingram@comcast.net](mailto:marion.ingram@comcast.net). Please contact Marion with any nominations. Elections will take place in August. Officers will assume their positions in January.

St. Augustine Acapella Choir Concert – Sat., Aug. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church

The SIA is donating $250.00 to the Fine Arts Program at St. Augustine Preparatory School. There will be a plate at the rear of the Church for donations to the Church. The concert is free. One of the members of the Choir is Matthew Pond who resides in Strathmere.

Fire Safety Day – Sun., Aug. 13, from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Strathmere Firehouse

Dave Townsend reported that information will be given out with regard to bicycle safety, pedestrian safety, boating, and also an EMT will be present.

Dave also discussed elevators, stating that residents of Strathmere who have an elevator should forward to him a key and also the name, phone number, and make of elevator that is in their home.

SIA Table – The SIA will distribute give-away bags with coloring books, dolls, and other items on Safety Day.

Poetry Day – Thurs., July 27, at the Schiavo Library

Please sign up at the Library.

SFEC Summer Social – Sat., July 29, at the Firehouse.

Masterworks Choir – Thurs., July 27, at St. Peter’s Church in Ocean City.

Debbie Vandegrift commented that the Choir is composed of 65 members. The Church is located at 8th St. and Central Ave.

**SIA Meeting – Friday, Aug. 18**

The Bergus-Laurence Scholarship Awards will be presented to honor roll students in Strathmere.

There will be an ice cream social at 7:30 p.m.

A representative from CK Pilates will present the MELT program. We will take part in a foot treatment and exercise to improve balance.

**Tom Leonard – Quilt of Valor**

Tom was recently honored for his service to our country by the Quilts of Valor. Their mission is “to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.”

Tom showed his Quilt to those in attendance, and noted that the person’s name who made the Quilt has been sewn into it. He also showed a pillow case that was given to him in which to keep the Quilt.

Tom received his quilt on April 8 at the Cape May Lewes Ferry Terminal.

Tom remarked that “I never considered myself worthy of such an honor.”

**Adjournment**

Sarah Boardman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Herb Hollinger. The motion carried.

**Raffle**

After the meeting, those whose dues were paid had been entered into a raffle. Ted Kingston was the winner of the $25.00 gift certificate to The Shack.

**ADDRESS BY ED ANDRESS, JR.**

Ed Andress addressed the group about his growing up in Strathmere.

Some highlights of his talk were that he and his Dad were born and raised here. Previously, his grandparents had moved on the island in 1896 and opened up a boat business in 1912.

When Ed grew up in Strathmere, the area was wide open, with about half the houses that are here now. There were about 30 kids on the island, and Ed commented that “everybody took care of everybody; people on the island were tight.”

Ed also remarked that “everything I ate came out of the ocean or bay.” He was 10 or 11 before he ever went to a supermarket.

After he was drafted and came home, he moved off the island.

“It’s so different now; it has changed so much,” Ed observed.

He closed with the comment, “I’m so proud to say I was born and raised here; I couldn’t have asked for a better place to be born and raised in.”

Ed’s complete talk has been videotaped for future generations to learn about life here years ago.

Strathmere hats were presented to Ed for him and his Dad.

Rosemarie Whelan

Recording Secretary