***STRATHMERE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION***

**Minutes of General Meeting**

**Friday, July 17, 2020**

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Linda Bateman, President, followed by the flag salute. Board members present included Janice Connell,

Peggy Kiessling, and Rosemarie Whelan. Approximately 25+ SIA members logged in to the meeting.

**Secretary’s Report**

Rosemarie Whelan stated that the minutes of the August 17, 2019 meeting were posted on the website. In an email sent to SIA members, it was made known that the minutes could be reviewed there.

A motion to approve the secretary’s report was made by Rex Schute and seconded by Lisa Carr. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Peggy Kiessling provided the following financial report.

OPENING BALANCE JUNE16, 2020: $11,671.45

INCOME 6-16-20 to date

Dues $320.00

Contributions $195.00

Fundraising $1,080.00

Shipping $23.00

SUBTOTALS $1,618.00

Routine Expenses

ZoomPro $15.98

Charity registration $30.00

Annual Insurance premiums $1,144.87

Website Management $200.00

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

SMK Food Bank $500.00

Fundraising Expenses $31.95

**SUBTOTALS** $1,922.80

**ENDING BALANCE July 14, 2020**: $11,366.65

Bergus-Laurence Savings Account

**OPENING BALANCE June 16, 2020**: $392.28

Interest accrued $0.04

**ENDING BALANCE July 14, 2020: $392.32**

Peggy stated that a boost in our budget was brought about by the Citizens for Strathmere/Whale Beach giving us 2 donations in the amount of $1891 and also due to our fundraising capabilities.

A motion to approve the Treasurer’s report was made by Rosalind Garrigle and seconded by Laurie Ettinger. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

Food Pantry

A $500 donation from the SIA was given to the Food Drive sponsored by the Strathmere Fishing and Environmental Club for the Church of the Resurrection Food Pantry in Marmora.

Linda Bateman noted that the Church of the Resurrection has a lending agreement with St. Casmir’s in Woodbine.

Brian Furey Send –Off

An impromptu ceremony for Brian, who is a midshipman in the freshman class at the Naval Academy, took place outdoors at the Strathmere Firehouse.

2020 silver dollars have been shipped from the Mint for CJ Furey and John Pond. As there is a backlog at the Mint, the V-Day coin for Brian has not yet been shipped.

Advocacy

Janice Connell led the discussion on the following topics.

New Ordinance - A revised building ordinance was approved at the Upper Township Committee Meeting on May 26. Visit our webpage to access a link to the Upper Township website where the meeting can be viewed.

Parking Issues - Due to an abundance of illegal parking on Commonwealth Avenue, State Police patrols have been increased. In the near future, “No Parking” will be stenciled on pavements in some of the pedestrian lane sections.

Neptune Avenue - The Township received a grant to widen Neptune Avenue. The SIA was not aware of this. The residents on Neptune Avenue retained a representative, and as a result, the plan failed.

Linda and Janice approached Mayor Palombo in reference to the above issues. He urged residents to contact him, and he will address the issues. Please email Barbara Young as well. Her information is on the Township website.

Covid-19 - On the Township home page, there is a Covid-19 update. Also,

Scott Morgan, who is another great resource for Covid-19, may be contacted.

Strathmere Motel - The Motel expects to present plans in September for the construction of condominiums. The SIA foresees much pushback.

Complaints were voiced about parking on 2 sides of the street on Randolph Ave., Prescott Ave., and N. Bayview Dr., as emergency vehicles are unable to drive down these streets. Some ideas discussed were to widen the streets, have one-sided parking, or designating them as one-way streets.

The SIA is of the opinion that a professional planner is needed to evaluate the situation and develop ideas. We will work with the Township Committee on this.

The topic of beach tags was another issue raised by residents.

Complaints voiced by residents at the Zoom meeting include large amounts of trash on the beach, drunkenness, dogs, and using the beach as a bathroom.

The Mayor is aware of the problems; however, no action will be taken this summer.

Peggy Kiessling urged everyone to notify the Mayor of any offensive activities that they are witnessing.

**Fundraising**

The osprey ornaments are $10 and are available at the Schiavo Library and the Ocean Beach Trailer Resort.

Tank tops are available and cost $5.

Totes are $10; there are 3 left.

If you wish to purchase any of these items, please email the SIA. There will be curbside pick-up.

**Elections**

Lisa Carr is the nominating chairperson. Please email her at [lisacarr1@verizon.net](mailto:lisacarr1@verizon.net) to self-nominate or to nominate someone else. Elections will take place in August.

**Update to Logo, Website, New Email**

The SIA has been working with a website developer, who has redesigned our website. The website is comprehensive and includes links to the Township.

**Strathmere Stories – Intern and Update**

We have hired someone to fine tune our stories for the You-Tube channel. Our slide show has been updated.

**70th Anniversary 2021**

Please contact us with us with any ideas that you may have to celebrate this momentous occasion.

**August Meeting**

The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 22, at 10:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Rex Schute. This was seconded by Kate Kunda. The motion carried.

Rosemarie Whelan

Recording Secretary

**PROGRAM**

Joseph LaRosa presented a most interesting summary of his newest book, *Storm Stories, An Oral History,* which is a follow-up to his first book, *Our Perfect Storm.*

Joe began by describing the 1962 storm as a winter March nor’easter which stalled over Sea Isle City for 3 days and caused unbelievable destruction and damage. He used the New Jersey State Police teletype wires to access information about the storm. A slide show accompanied Joe’s reading of a sampling of stories from his book.

One of the stories that Joe read was about Leonard Bonitt who died in 2018 at the age of 97. Leonard was the manager of the Acme Market in Sea Isle City. During the storm, he and

Joe Romano, who also worked at the Acme, went through town delivering food to those people

who had become stranded in their houses because of the flooding.

Since these stories are first person accounts, they make for most-compelling reading.

His book, *Storm Stories: An Oral History* is available in Sea Isle City at Dalrymple’s, Sands Department Store, The Book Nook, The Sea Isle City Historical Museum, and on Amazon (search – March 1962 storm).

Joe LaRosa is a survivor of the March 1962 storm and is a member of one of the oldest Sea Isle City families.

He is a graduate of St. Joseph’s Elementary School in Sea Isle City, Ocean City High School, and Rutgers University, where he earned a doctorate in education. A lifeguard in the community for 16 years, he was elected to the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol Hall of Fame in 2010.

Joe is currently a retired school administrator and lives offshore with his wife of 41 years, Barbara. He has 2 children and 2 grandchildren.