***STRATHMERE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION***

**Minutes of General Meeting**

**Friday, July 16, 2021**

A fond farewell to Debbie and Butch Vandegrift, on the occasion of their leaving Strathmere, preceded the meeting. Debbie is the oldest living resident in Strathmere. She and Butch have contributed so much to the town and are a part of the town’s history. Townspeople gathered to wish them well and offer parting remarks at the appetizing buffet which preceded the meeting. A gift card to the Crab Trap Restaurant was presented to them. They will be missed.

Attending the 7:30 p.m. meeting were Linda Bateman, President; Janice Connell,

Vice-President; Donna Diefenderfer, Member-at-Large; Peggy Kiessling, Treasurer; and Rosemarie Whelan, Secretary. About 35 members were in attendance.

**Bergus-Laurence Honor Roll Award**

 John Pond received a Christa McAuliffe silver dollar and certificate for his Honor Roll achievement. John is a senior at Wildwood Catholic Academy, where he is the public address announcer for the boys’ and girls’ basketball games.

**Secretary’s Report – Rosemarie Whelan**

 The Secretary stated that the report for Friday, July 17, 2020, was posted online, and that hard copies were available on the table. Ken Weaver made a motion to approve the Secretary’s Report. This was seconded by Drew Schutte. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report- Peggy Kiessling**

TREASURER'S REPORT JULY 13, 2021

OPENING BALANCE APRIL 30, 2021:

 CHECKING $10,809.42

INCOME

4-30 to date

Dues

$560.00

Contributions

$185.00

Grant

$2,500.00

Fundraising

$2,730.00

SUBTOTAL

$5,975.00

Routine Expenses

 Office Supplies/Web Support

$463.88

 Mission Support

$192.37

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

 Fundraising

$100.00

 Scholarship Award

$78.95

 Annual Insurance

$1,547.87

 Charitable Gift

$500.00

 NJ Charities Registration

$30.00

SUBTOTAL

$2,913.07

ENDING BALANCE JULY 13, 2021: $13,841.35

Bergus-Laurence remaining balance $132.57, included in

 TD Bank total

 A $2500 grant was received by the SIA. The donor’s name was not revealed.

 Bob Roland made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. This was seconded by

Lisa Carr. The motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**

 Dues – our dues, $10, entitle you to a vote and are due. Venmo is now accepted.

 SIA 70th Anniversary – Upper Township passed a resolution at their meeting recognizing

 us for our service to the community.

 Mailing List – We have about 640 people in the organization. Many of the emails have

 outdated addresses. After dues are paid, visit the website and enter your

 information.

 Strathmere Stories – We have people that we are trying to reach. We also invite anyone

 to share a story or to borrow the camera and record their family’s history.

**New Business**

 Donation – A $2500 anonymous donation allows us to accomplish things that we unable

 to accomplish in the past.

 70th Anniversary – In recognition of this, we will have 2 signs produced by Enterprise

 Graphics of Marmora showing the Atlantic Coastal Flyway and the birds found

 here. We hope to have this for the August meeting.

 To celebrate our 70th anniversary, souvenirs of this milestone will be

 given to our members at that meeting.

**Welcoming Committee**

 Juliette Schucter, a new resident on Randolph Avenue, has been instrumental in preparing a welcome brochure to which there is a direct link on our website. If there is anything that you would like to see added to the brochure, please contact Juliette.

 Postcards were distributed by Strathmere Ambassadors, formerly known as block captains. If interested in becoming a Strathmere Ambassador, please contact Juliette at juliettesc@aol.com

**Comments by Ed Tettemer**

Ed remarked how the SIA played a big role in all past achievements of the town. He urged the next generation “to take up the torch.”

**Bruce Riordan Recognition**

 The Upper Township Committee will honor Bruce Riordan in recognition of his serving 40 years as Fire Chief of the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company. The Fire Company has 23 volunteers presently serving. Bruce will be recognized at the Committee meeting on Monday, July 26.

**By-laws Revision**

 Copies of the proposed by-laws’ revisions were made available to members. These will be voted on at the meeting on August 21st.

**Parking Enforcement**

 For violations occurring with regard to yellow lines and illegal parking, the parking enforcement officers may be reached at 609-628-7011. One way streets were not adopted, but one-sided parking was instituted in some locations. Much input was voiced from the audience about the parking situation in Strathmere.

**Nominating Committee Chair – Lisa Carr**

 Email Lisa at lisacarr1@verizon.net. You can self-nominate. August 16 is the nomination deadline so that we are able to put together a ballot and get it to the members before the next meeting, August 21, when elections take place. We are also seeking someone interested in helping with fundraising and a newsletter editor is also being sought.

**Year in Review**

 Zoom License was purchased. This helped us to facilitate meetings and strategy sessions

 concerning issues with the Strathmere Motel and the Deauville Inn.

 Food Drives - $500 was given to each of the SFEC food drives.

 Yellow Stickers – There is a form to fill out if you would like one of these for the bumper

 of your car, and if you would also like a blinking safety light.

 Venmo may now be used with us.

 501C3 status has been secured.

**August 21 Meeting**

 Discussion will focus on going forward. Quality of life issues to be discussed include night lighting and street ends.

**Presentation by Deborah Rivel**

 Deborah is an avid birdwatcher, wildlife photographer, film producer, director and third generation Strathmere resident who can frequently be seen pr***owl***ing our beaches in search of that rare bird. Deborah organized the volunteer plover project here this summer. She has co-authored a book “Birdwatching in New York City and on Long Island.” She is currently a Board member of Audubon New York State, Birdlife International, BirdNote, Gesturetek Inc., and The Alex Foundation. She has also created ringtones for phones through her company, Wildtones.

 Deborah gave a video presentation about the birds on our shores in Strathmere. Some of the points that she made were that we have habitat here to support lots of creatures. Deborah remarked, “This is not typical of the shore anymore.”

 She also spoke about the eight major migratory bird flyways in the world. Birds come here to rest and to eat. Some birds that were pictured in her video were red knots, sanderlings, oystercatchers, the endangered piping plovers, least terns, black skimmers, tree swallows, and sea ducks. Deborah commented, in the winter, 75 to 80 species can be seen daily on our beaches.

 Upcoming birding events include a Wildlife Program with Todd Pover at 6 p.m. at the Schiavo Library on Thursday, July 22, and Deborah will host a Bird Nature Walk on Thursday, July 29, starting at the Schiavo Library at 6 p.m.

Rosemarie Whelan

Secretary