***STRATHMERE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION***

**Minutes of the General Meeting**

**Saturday, July 9, 2022**

 The meeting was called to order by Janice Connell, President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Attending the 10:30 a.m. Zoom meeting were Janice Connell, President; Juliette Schlucter, Vice-President; Terence Buckley, Treasurer; Donna Diefenderfer, Member-at-Large; and Rosemarie Whelan, Secretary.

 Janice welcomed the 38 members who signed into the Zoom meeting.

**Secretary’s Report**

 Ken Weaver made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2021 meeting. This was seconded by Juliette Schlucter. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**

 Terence stated that his goal last fall was to have all of the financial records in an electronic format. This was accomplished and will facilitate budget analysis for future activities and program planning. He also remarked that 125 households have paid dues in 2022, and that their email addresses were noted.

 Terence’s reports are attached.

 A motion was made by Juliette Schlucter to approve the Treasurer’s Report. This was seconded by Lisa Carr. The motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**

Strathmere Vision Focus Group Status Update – 58 recommendations were made, and 11 have been completed. A spreadsheet of prioritized items was prepared

 Upper Township officials have given recommendations to the Planning Board on quality of life issues, including a recommendation to address excessive lighting in the Township.

The SIA will continue to support Township work and maintain the momentum on ways to minimize excessive lighting and address other Focus Group recommendations. Janice will send each Focus Group their prioritized recommendations, work with Victoria Green to hold Zoom meetings to develop the next steps, and the SIA will hold a special off-season program meeting with Focus Groups presenting their work and future plans.

 70th Anniversary State Park Sign Unveiling – Thursday, April 17, 2022 – In honor of the SIA’s 70th anniversary and Linda Carter Bateman’s birthday, the Carter family donated money for 2 bird signs to be placed at Corson’s Inlet State Park, Seacliff Ave. entrance. The SIA matched their donation.

 Officials from the New Jersey DEP were present at the State Park for the unveiling of the signs, and the SIA received coverage in the Press of Atlantic City.

 The signs are also laminated in pamphlet form, and the Plover Project volunteers are using them for public outreach and education.

**New Business**

 **By-Laws’ Revision Review/Vote** – Linda Bateman

 Members of the committee included Linda Bateman, Lisa Carr, Rosalind Garrigle,

Juliette Schlucter, and Len Wilson.

 Article V – Section 1 – Terms for officers of the Executive Board will be 2 years. The officers will begin their terms on October 1.

 Article V – Section 8 – An officer who has been asked to resign or who has been removed from office, may not serve as an officer in the future.

 Article VI – Section 1 – Current dues-paying members will be eligible to vote. Those eligible must be present at the August meeting in order to cast a vote.

 Article VI – Section 2 – Annual dues shall be collected from January 1 through April 30.

 Article IX – Section 3 – The deadline for nominations to the Executive Board shall be the Monday before the August meeting.

 Article X – Section 5 – The President may serve as a member of all Committees and shall have a vote.

 A motion to approve these revisions of the by-laws was made by Rex Schutte and seconded by Donna Martello. The motion carried.

**Fundraising**

 Towels, shopping bags and raffle tickets for the bike will be sold at the SIA’s next meeting on Saturday, August 13, at 10:30 a.m. and at 2 pop-up sales at Sidney’s and/or the Post Office. Dates and times to be determined.

**Upper Township Green Team**

 Mayor Corson will reappoint Green Team leadership and support the recertification in the Sustainable NJ program. The SIA and Focus Groups shall partner and collaborate with them on projects of mutual benefit.

**Website Update**

 The SIA Executive Board is working with Lou Domenico on the website update and is looking forward to completion by the end of the year.

**Beach Patrol Update – Bill Handley**

 On Monday night, July 11, a few more guards will be appointed, resulting in a fully-staffed beach patrol.

 A jet ski is positioned at Williams Ave. Guards with 4 or more years’ experience will operate the jet ski.

 Beach Head System – Below are the guards who will be stationed 3-4 days a week at the following locations in order to establish a relationship with the local community.

 Putnam Ave. – Emily Culmone

 Seacliff Ave. – Lorna Connell

 Sherman Ave. – Lindsay Robinson

 Tecumseh Ave. – Grace Steele

 Webster Ave. – Reghan Handley

 Williams Ave. – Jack O’Hara

 Janice stated that the SIA will be distributing information about the Beach Heads.

 Lightning Strikes – If there are any lightning strikes 10 miles from our beaches, all of our beaches will be cleared.

 History of the Beach Patrol – If you can add to our knowledge of the history of the beach patrol, please visit our website – <https://uppertownship.com/public-safety/beach-patrol/>

**Nominating Committee**

 Janice appointed Lisa Carr as the Chairperson. She is taking nominations for 5 officers for 2-year terms. The officers are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Member-at-Large. Elections will take place at the August 13 meeting. All nominations must be submitted by Monday, August 8. Please submit a brief bio of one paragraph stating who you are, where you live, and any other relevant information. This will be distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

**Year in Review**

 Piping Plover Project – The SIA continues to support and publicize this project led by Deb Rivel and Linda Bateman. SIA members are part of the active staffing on the beach. These include Linda Bateman, Mark Berger, Janice Connell, Victoria Green, Mark Hemling, Deb Rivel, Len Wilson and others. The number of volunteers has expanded this year enabling additional on-the-ground patrolling and public outreach.

 One pair made a nest near the State Park entrance, and 4 chicks hatched. Despite heroic efforts by the parents and by the volunteers, one chick was lost to a crow. Fish and Wildlife has banded 3 chicks.

 Also, it was stated that 99% of the time, beachgoers have been cooperative.

 Beach Plum Plantings (with UT Green Team) – April 2, 2022 - Going forward, this fall and spring, more plantings will take place.

**PROGRAM**

 Valerie Dall’Acqua gave an in-depth presentation on the topic of “Dark Skies.” Valerie and her husband Charles have lived in Strathmere for 20 years and also maintain a residence in Florida.

 Janice will share Valerie’s complete presentation by making it available online.

Highlights

 “The inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light – known as light pollution –

can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate. Components of light pollution include:

 Glare – excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort

 Skyglow – brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas

 Light trespass – light falling where it is not intended or needed

 Clutter – bright, confusing and excessive groupings of light sources”

 “According to a 2012 report of the American Medical Association Glare from nighttime lighting can create hazards ranging from discomfort to frank visual disability.”

 “Excessive lighting has adverse impacts.”

 Lighting ordinances and lighting recommendations were also included in Valerie’s presentation.

 Janice has spoken with Paul Dietrich, Municipal Engineer of Upper Township, who has completed a survey of street lights in Strathmere. As a result of the survey, a recommendation was made to the Planning Board to eliminate 32 street lights in Strathmere.

 The question, “How do we talk to our neighbors?” was raised. Valerie stated that

darkskies.org has a section devoted to this topic.

 Ed Tettemer mentioned contacting Derrick Pitts to facilitate a discussion about this and present a “Star Gazing” program on the beach. Derrick is the Chief Astronomer and Director of the Franklin Institute’s Fels Planetarium in Philadelphia.

 This month’s *Atlantic Magazine* also has an article pertaining to this subject.

**Questions and Comments from Attendees**

 Area of Seaview and Neptune Aves. – One member commented that the pathways are closed, and as a result people are walking on the dunes.

 Another person also commented about walking on the dunes, requesting that signs be made. Upper Township is working on signs that will consolidate signs at beach entrances and make a positive statement. Janice will raise these concerns with the Township Engineer and suggestions for signage prohibiting use of dunes as walkways to the beach.

 Beach Tags – The Township Committee is not addressing the issue this year.

 Parking Enforcement – The phone number for the person working in the area is

609-675-1493. Upper Township addressed our concern that the Parking Enforcement Officers address parking violations consistently.

 Janice suggested that members attend Township Committee meetings and address the Committee directly on any specific issues that they may have.

 The next meeting of the SIA will take place at the Strathmere Firehouse on Saturday, August 13, at 10:30 a.m.

Rosemarie Whelan

Secretary

*With a click of the mouse*

*The Zoom meeting was doused.*