***STRATHMERE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION***

**Minutes of the General Meeting**

**August 17, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Janice Connell, Vice-President. The flag salute was led by Strathmere’s Honor Roll students, Brian and CJ Furey and John and Matthew Pond. Including our Board members, forty-two people were in attendance.

**Bergus-Laurence Honor Roll Awards**

Linda Bateman, President of the SIA, presented Strathmere’s honor roll students with silver dollars and certificates.

Matthew Pond will be attending Notre Dame University in the fall. He anticipates taking part in the a cappella group there and also performing in plays. As he is leaving us, a coin commemorating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing was given to Matthew.

John Pond is a sophomore at Wildwood Catholic where he assists in the Press Box.

Brian Furey is a senior at St. Augustine’s Preparatory School and has verbally committed to playing baseball at the Naval Academy.

CJ Furey will be entering St. Augustine’s Preparatory School as a freshman this year. He is looking forward to playing baseball for the Hermits.

**Reflecting on the Passing of Janet Mahley**

Linda Bateman reminisced about the life of Janet Mahley, our Member-at-Large, who sadly passed away the previous Saturday. A moment of silence followed.

**Secretary’s Report**

Rosemarie Whelan stated that the minutes of the July 19, 2019 meeting were posted on the SIA website and that hard copies were available at this meeting.

A motion to approve the Secretary’s report was made by Len Wilson and seconded by Sarah Boardman. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Donna Diefenderfer gave the following financial report.

OPENING BALANCE – JULY 7, 2019 $7,533.81

INCOME 7/16/19 Boat Cruise, Dues

Fund Raisers $350.00

7/19/2019 Donation $ 75.00

7/26/2019 Dues $20.00

Bags $16.00

Donation $40.00 $ 76.00

7/29/2019 Dues $20.00 $ 20.00

8/7/2019 Dues $70.00

Bags $46.00

Donations $30.00 $146.00

TOTAL INCOME $ 667.00 $8,200.81

E XPENSES 6/2019 Printing New Checks $34.75

TOTAL EXPENSES $ 34.75 $ 34.75

CLOSING BALANCE $8,166.06

Scholarship Fund $391.87

A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Butch Vandegrift and seconded by Mark Bateman. The motion carried.

**Presentation to Donna Diefendefer**

In recognition of her outstanding work as Treasurer, Donna was presented with a gift card to Mildred’s Restaurant. Donna will be stepping down as Treasurer and assuming the position of Member-at-Large in the SIA. Peggy Kiessling will take over the Treasurer’s duties.

**Upcoming Events**

August 24 – Nightmare in Strathmere

August 28 – Strathmere Volunteer Fire Dept. barbecue at the Deauville Inn

**Advocacy Work**

Commonwealth Ave. Pedestrian Walkway

Compliance has been noted with the “No Parking” signs on the bay side.

A non-compliant area on Commonwealth Ave. near Taylor Ave. has been identified. The State Police have been issuing tickets.

In the fall, “no parking” will be added to the pavement in problem areas near Taylor Ave.

State Police Patrols

Weekend patrols are taking place.

Status of Draft of the Township Building Ordinance

Janice Connell remarked, as there were objections to restrictions on large lots over 8,000 sq. ft., a new committee was created that proposed additional changes regarding the removal of restrictions on large lots.

The Planning Board will hold additional public meetings to re-examine the Master Plan. There will be a town hall held in Strathmere, possibly on a Saturday in September, to receive input from residents on this Ordinance.

Attendance at Township Committee meetings also affords opportunities for public comments.

Linda Bateman will seek permission to post a draft of this Ordinance on our website. Janice Connell will take any concerns back to the committee chairperson.

Tom Rossi asked about the possibility of a pre-meeting in Strathmere. It would be an information session based on the knowledge that we have now. Linda indicated the SIA Board would discuss whether to proceed beyond gaining the draft ordinance and obtaining a town hall meeting with the Mayor.

Strathmere Stories

These are continuing.

**Nominating Report Committee**

Len and Joyce Wilson, Chairpersons of the Committee, reported that no nominations were received by email. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and none were forthcoming. Len also urged members to consider running in the future.

Len asked for a vote to approve the current board remaining in office. Those members in attendance unanimously voted approval. The officers are Linda Bateman, President; Janice Connell, Vice-President; Peggy Kiessling, Treasurer; Rosemarie Whelan, Recording Secretary, and Donna Diefenderfer, Member-at-Large.

**Closing Remarks**

Linda Bateman welcomed Peggy Kiessling as our new Treasurer.

She also stated that we are always looking for volunteers to assist with the newsletter and Facebook.

Linda closed by thanking everyone for their continuing support.

**Adjournment**

Bob Roland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Sarah Boardman. The motion carried.

Rosemarie Whelan

Recording Secretary

**PROGRAM**

Dave and Karen Townsend visited Normandy on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Dave’s father had served in the Navy and had taken part in D-Day, but did not talk about his naval experiences in WWII. Dave researched and found out some amazing things about his dad’s role in that event.

His dad, Milton Griscom Townsend, after three months training, took part in D-Day.

Dave and Karen shared their memories and pictures. There is one picture where Dave wrote his Dad’s name and year on the sand at Omaha Beach.

The complete video can be viewed on the SIA Youtube channel, Strathmere Stories, and will be linked to our website. It is truly an experience not to be missed.