***STRATHMERE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION***

**Minutes of the General Meeting**

**Sunday, September 1, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Janice Connell, President. This was followed by the Flag Salute. Attending the 11 a.m. meeting at the Strathmere Firehouse were Janice Connell, President; Juliette Schlucter, Vice-President;

Terence Buckley, Treasurer; Chris Baeckstrom and Donna Diefenderfer, Members-at-Large; Jessica Kohles, Communications Officer; and

Rosemarie Whelan, Secretary.

Including the SIA Board, about fifty members were present.

**Welcome and Board Introductions**

Juliette Schlucter warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members of the Board.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Terence Buckley presented the following statements.

Balance Sheet as of August 26, 2024

Total Assets - $25,632.44

Total Liability and Equity - $25,632.44

Profit and Loss Statement - January 1 through August 26, 2024

Net Income - $474.44

To request copies of these reports, please contact Terence.

**Secretary’s Report**

Rosemarie Whelan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the General Meeting held on September 1. Paul Kiessling made the motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Candy Jankowski. All were in favor; none were opposed. Therefore, the motion was approved.

**New Business**

Revision to Bylaws – The Communications Officer is now a member of the SIA Board.

Expansion of Member-at-Large position – Chris Baeckstrom was appointed as a new member of the SIA Board.

Our 501C3 has been reinstated.

**New Slate of SIA Officers**

Juliette Schlucter introduced the following slate of officers.

President – Colleen Jones – A former registered nurse, Colleen moved to Strathmere four years ago.

Vice-President – Chris Baeckstrom – He “absolutely loves it here” and is part of the Pollinator Committee.

Secretary – Sue Willard – Sue is “happy to be involved in the SIA.”

Treasurer – Terence Buckley – He has been here since 2016 and specializes in construction accounting.

Member-at-Large – Judy Hollinger – She has been coming to Strathmere for over 50 years and remarked that “Strathmere is

so precious to us.”

Juliette Schlucter asked for a motion to accept the slate of nominees. This was made by Mark Hemling and seconded by Lyn Tettemer. The motion carried.

Juliette thanked Janice Connell for her “dedication” to the SIA.

Linda Bateman was also thanked for her “huge help” in reaching out to candidates.

Juliette also thanked Donna Diefenderfer and Rosemarie Whelan for their service on the SIA Board.

**Service-to-Strathmere Award - Linda Bateman**

Juliette Schlucter stated that this Award is given to an “individual who goes above and beyond in implementing those values that we share. This person emerged with multiple votes.” Prior to presenting this Award to Linda Bateman, Juliette read the nominations that honored her.

**SIA Focus Group Updates**

54 of the projects have been completed

2 are planned for completion by year’s end

2 are in the planning stage

Dark Skies

Jason Lombardi discussed the new street lights which have three times the brightness of other lights in town. The options are removing the lights, placing shields on them, or lowering the wattage. Jason is engaged with Atlantic City Electric and Upper Township.

Pollinator Gardens

Chris Baeckstrom reported that over 1,000 Goldenrod were planted on the dunes. Plant sales were held at Sidney’s and the Firehouse.

**PROGRAM**

**Randy Roash – Strathmere Fishing and Environmental Club**

Randy Roash introduced himself and Rose Rhine as Co-Chairmen of the Environmental Committee of the Strathmere Fishing and Environmental Club. Some of the events in which the Environmental Committee recently took part were:

Kids’ Paddle Board Event which included an informative discussion about oyster farming in the back bay

A turtle nesting enclosure was built at the south end of the Trailer Park

Osprey nest boat tours

Beach planting program in collaboration with the SIA

Randy then discussed the Living Shoreline program which is a protective and stabilized shoreline made from natural materials and helps to reduce erosion. Wetlands are being lost between the boat ramp and Whale Creek. We wrote to Congressman Van Drew asking for his support and received a $1.5 million dollar grant through NOAA for the Living Shoreline.

**Adjournment**

Janice Connell closed the meeting ensuring a smooth transition for the newly-elected SIA Board. She also acknowledged Victoria Green for her work with the SIA Board.

Rosemarie Whelan

Secretary