***STRATHMERE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION***

**Minutes of the General Meeting**

**Saturday, August 21, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Linda Bateman, President, who led those assembled in the flag salute. Attending the 10:30 a.m. meeting were Linda Bateman, President;

Janice Connell, Vice-President; Rosemarie Whelan, Secretary; and Donna Diefenderfer, Member-at-large. Also present were Adam Modder and Juliette Schlucter, candidates for the position of Vice-President; and Terence Buckley, candidate for the position of Treasurer. Approximately sixty plus members were present.

**Report of Nominating Chairperson**

 Lisa Carr asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. Rosemarie Whelan cast the ballot for the four seats which were unopposed, per SIA by-laws.

Lisa then asked Adam Modder and Juliette Schlucter, candidates for the position of Vice-President, and Terence Buckley, candidate for Treasurer, to briefly introduce themselves.

 Juliette Schlucter, who moved here about a year ago, has participated in the beach cleanup, July 4th parade, and worked on organizing important information about the town for new residents. “It is a privilege to live here,” and that is “why I put my hat in the ring to run for Vice-President,” remarked Juliette.

 Adam Modder, who is from Las Vegas, oversees operations at the Deauville Inn. As for his reason for running for Vice-President, Adam commented, “I want to be more involved in the community. We all do at the Deauville.”

 Terrence Buckley has lived on Webster Avenue since 2017. Terrence stated that “I have a certain skill set that might be useful to the organization.”

 Following these remarks, the members voted by ballot for the Vice-President, and the results were reported at the end of the business meeting.

 Lisa Carr reported that sixty votes were cast. Juliette Schlucter received fifty votes and Adam Modder received ten. Therefore, Juliette was elected Vice-President of the SIA.

 New officers will assume their roles on October 1.

**Secretary’s Report**

 Herb Hollinger made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2021 meeting. This was seconded by Rex Schutte. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**

 Donna Diefenderfer gave the Treasurer’s report in the absence of Peggy Kiessling. Donna reported a balance of $14,278.20 in our bank account.

 Joan DiFiore made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. This was seconded by Dru Schutte. The motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**By-laws Revisions Vote**

 **The revisions are designed to bring our by-laws in line with current banking practices and to ease in the transition of newly elected officers onto the board. These were introduced at the July meeting and explained and posted on the website.**

**​** Mark Berger made a motion to approve the by-laws revisions. This was seconded by

Mark Bateman. The motion carried.

 The newly updated by-laws were signed and witnessed by three board members.

**Newsletter Editor and Website Editor**

 These positions are still vacant.

**UPDATES**

**Towing Ordinance**

 Court House Towing is the official towing company for Strathmere.

**Members’ Jubilee Gift**

 Dues-paying members received a small commemorative gift recognizing our 70th anniversary.

**Kids’ Surf Fishing Tournament and Open House at the Strathmere Firehouse**

 Both were extremely successful events in which the SIA participated. Small commemorative gifts were distributed to the kids and to SIA members.

**State Park Signs and Sign on Home Page**

 The State Park signs recognize our 70th Jubilee, and the State has approved the location for them. We are awaiting the final design by the State.

 **Nightmare Boat Parade – Sat., Aug. 28 at 6 p.m.**

 The parade can be seen from these street ends -Willard, Whittier, Webster (playground), Sumner, Putnam and the Bayview Boat Ramp.

**Strathmere Stories**

 Anyone interested in contributing stories or assisting with these may borrow the camera from the SIA or the SIA will film them.

**RECOGNITION OF LINDA BATEMAN**

 The following remarks were made by Janice Connell and Rosemarie Whelan in recognition of Linda Bateman’s endless efforts on behalf of the SIA.

 2012 is the year in which Linda assumed the presidency of the SIA, and she has worked non-stop for the betterment of our community since then. Linda participated in numerous advocacy projects and always had an interesting and important presentation during the meetings.

 Going back to 2013, which was the year after Sandy, the most destructive hurricane of the Atlantic hurricane season, Linda presented a program on flood insurance and how to manage stress after storms and flooding.

 From 2014 on, some other presentations included a history of Strathmere which included Twisties, a presentation on antiquing, the Zika virus, rip currents, “How to Keep the Shore House in the Family,” local photography and art, the osprey nesting program, 75th anniversary of D-Day, local author presentation, plover project talk, and a presentation by the Cape Atlantic Woodturners’ Club, where all in the audience were treated to a handcrafted creation.

 Under Linda’s presidency, the SIA donated a welcome sign at the bridge, a reading bench at the Schiavo Library, distributed stainless steel straws to the kids at the Fishing Tournament, donated $500 to each of the SFEC Food Drives, presented silver dollars to honor roll students in Strathmere, and the SIA has a yearly presence in the Fourth of July parade.

 However, Linda’s advocacy work is most meaningful. Linda regularly attends township committee, planning board, and zoning board meetings for discussion on those subjects that have an impact on Strathmere and its residents. The SIA has participated in the building ordinance revision, the Neptune project, the defeat of the motel, playground improvement, mobie mat installation, the bulkhead project, pedestrian walkway work with the county, and the piping plover project.

Just a few synonyms for the name Linda include hard-working, supercharged, smart, selfless, industrious, and a good friend. Who would like to add to this list?

A sterling silver bracelet, inscribed with the words, *“Linda-In appreciation of your* *leadership as President-SIA.”* was presented to Linda by Janice Connell.

 **PROGRAM**

 The program, presented by Victoria Green, enabled members to take part in a discussion of a vision for the future of Strathmere.

Victoria Green, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and founder of Green Leadership Consulting. She works with organization leaders to identify and assess talent, develop company leaders, facilitate high-performance teams, identify, and enhance leadership aptitude, resolve conflict, and improve communications.

 After a brief introduction, Victoria asked the audience for initiatives that they would like to advocate for the future of Strathmere.

 During the brainstorming session, members submitted the following suggestions:

Flood mitigation, dark skies, more work at playground, cleanup after dogs, educate renters about community, beautification of street ends, street cleaning, living shorelines, port-a-potties on the beach, trash enclosures at the end of the streets, limit construction in summer, sewers, beach cleaning, buying the motel, wildlife habitat, more land preservation, literature about birds’ nesting, protection of birds, fireworks at night on the beach endangering birds, ordinance enforcement, bonfires on beach, destruction of wood entrances on the beach, gasoline on the beach, construction dumpsters’ material used at fireworks on the beach, protection of large pines, maintenance of sidewalks, native plant education, excess speed on Commonwealth Ave., protection of turtles, ordinance against certain pesticides, more involvement with local government, management of weeds and trees, information on how to protect seals, mandate laws for grass instead of stones, manage parking near the bridge, repair of bulkheads, larger trash receptacles at entrances, traffic study for number of vehicles going over the bridge, continue to support volunteer organizations, census to see who is here in the winter, better street maintenance, enhanced parking enforcement, general store, enhancing open space in Whale Beach, kids riding unlighted bikes at night, dealing with increased taxes, build a real boat ramp, get to know lifeguards, farmers’ market on street ends, trash cans by lifeguard station, clean up beach where birds nest, revisit construction rules and building guidelines, preserving Strathmere’s post office, and the beach tag issue.

 Categories were formed, and each of these issues was placed in the appropriate category.

Victoria will report back on possible sub-committees being formed with major issues being the subjects for actions to be considered in the future.

Rosemarie Whelan

Secretary