

POHBA GENERAL MEETING April 13 2019 - 2 to 4 PM

The meeting was called to order at 2 PM.

President Bob Frederick noted the following:

1. Welcomed everyone and thanked Lucille for the refreshments.
2. Thanked all the Board Members present.
3. We have 106 paid up Hay Beach Association members. Goal is 120 by year end.
4. Upcoming events: Association Member's Cocktail party June 29th. at Jodi Sisley and Bill Mastro's home at 11 Great Circle Drive at 3 to 6 PM, the Annual Block Party, August 17th. from Noon to 3 PM on Hay Beach Road with an August 24th. rain date, and a September Luncheon to be announced.
5. Bob met with New Highway Dept. Supervisor, Brian Sherman. Brian noted he would follow up on any Hay Beach concerns. Mention you're from Hay Beach if you contact him.
6. Volunteers needed by the Town to work with the Lions Club on their Island - wide clean up day. Join them on May 4th.

Bob introduced our guest speaker Gordon Gooding, Chairman of the Community Preservation Advisory Board. Gordon discussed the following:

- Hay Beach History books are available for purchase.
 - Past Presidents Bernie Jacobs and Bob Ohrtman passed away.
 - **RE: The Community Land Preservation Fund Advisory board (CPF):**
1. CPF originated in 1998. Five East End Towns, including SI comprise the CPF. CPF initiated a 2% real estate transfer tax on homes & land purchased in the 5 Eastern townships. The first \$250,000 on home sales is exempt from the tax and the first \$150,000 on land is exempt. This tax has been extended to the year 2050.
 2. Peconic Land Trust is a 501© (3) non profit that works with SI and other East End Towns to raise funds for and with landowners to protect our environment by acquiring open spaces and farmland. The 2% CPF fund money does NOT go to them. It goes to each individual town for preservation of land purchases, developments rights on farmland to preserve them, improving the Peconic Estuary and protect the water quality. The 2% collected from the sale by Suffolk County is distributed to the 5 Eastend Townships.
 3. 20% of the CPF fund monies can be used by the 5 Towns for water quality improvement. (WQIAB) Water Quality Improvement Advisory Board. Right now, one of the main goals of the Water Quality Improvement Advisory Board (WQIAB) is securing grants for residential septic systems.
 4. The Committee members on SI, unlike other towns, are volunteers. They report their recommendations to Town Board councilman Albert Dickson who is their CPF liaison.
 5. The SI CPF has \$9,328,000 in the CPF fund and are still paying off \$200,000 per year on a bond payment for the purchase of the Crab Creek property. This bond will be paid in full at the end of 2020.

6. The following are some of the land acquired by the CPF: Mildred Flower Hird Nature Preserve, Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, Gardiner's Creek Preserve, Ice Pond Park, Sachem's Woods, Crab Creek Preserve, Old Lima Bean Fields, & Congdon Creek in Coecles Harbor. The committee is working on kayak racks and benches being built by SI students for various sites.
7. Gordon showcased the "Trail Maps" at the meeting, noting where the properties purchased by CPF are located. The committee created signs for each acquisition and are in a continuing process of locating them at the beginning and end of each property. He encourages all of us to visit, walk through and enjoy the properties as they are owned by us via our tax dollars. Maps listing all of them are available at Town Hall and on the Town's CPF website.

Gordon asked Greg Toner of the Water Quality Improvement Advisory Board (WQIAB) to discuss the Water quality here on SI. Greg's summary follows:

1. The aquifer is our sole source of water and nitrogen is a big contaminant. As water from the highest points on the Island moves slowly towards the shoreline it keeps collecting nitrogen from each septic system causing the highest concentration in the Center. Salt water intrusion is a concern in the Silver Beach area. Hay Beach has excellent water.
2. Shelter Island's Water Advisory Committee operates under the parameters of NY State.
3. WQIAB currently has about one million dollars for such improvements. Residents who wish to update their old cesspool / septic systems will be reimbursed for the cost of the new system. The only cost to the resident may be taxes charged on the money reimbursed as it could be counted as income. All new homes are required to install the new septic systems.
4. Any property owner interested in installing a system and a rebate from the Town of Shelter Island must submit an application to the Water Quality Improvement Project Advisory Board. Any questions contact the Town Clerks office .

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Linda j. Puls, Secretary