

MINUTES
FIRE ISLAND PINES PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
March 3, 2013

Directors Present: Alan Brodherson, John Cassese, Jane Groveman, Greg Henniger, Roger Kluge, Nicole LaFontaine, Steve Norring, Jay Pagano, Tad Paul, Eric Sawyer, Ed Schulhafer, Paul Teixeira and Jim Vandernoeth.

Attending by Phone: Garry Korr and Jon Wilner

Directors Absent: Alan Brockman, Mike Hartstein, Henry Robin, Randy Wilson and Lori Zeller.

Also Present: Ken Pollard (Director of Administration)

Meeting called to order at 10:33 by President Jay Pagano at the offices of Dewitt Stern, 420 Lexington Ave, New York, NY.

Tad Paul motioned to approve the January minutes, Nicole LaFontaine seconded and the motion carried.

President's Report

Trap Bag Project

- The Trap bag project has been difficult to implement and consists of three components: permitting, funding and installation.
 - Dunewood, Seaview, Fair Harbor, Saltaire and the Pines are all doing trap bag projects.
- We have been trying to get the permit for the Trap Bag Project since the 3rd of January.
 - We were informed on Friday afternoon that the DEC permit has been issued and mailed.
- Every March, Land Use meets with FINS and the DEC to map out where the endangered species are likely to nest to determine where the symbolic fencing will be placed.
 - Last year symbolic fencing was installed on about a quarter of the beach.
 - In the likely nesting areas we will scrape the beach to cover the trap bags to provide a more inviting and natural area for nesting.
 - For areas that are not probable nesting areas, scraping can be done in August.
 - The planting of beach grass on top of the trap bags is not a requirement of the permit.
- The Erosion Control District has about \$10,000 on hand.
 - FEMA has yet to reimburse us for the scraping project done after Hurricane Irene in 2011.
 - The district spent about \$100,000 on the scraping project and those funds are not available until the reimbursement takes place.
 - The Town has agreed to float a bond for the trap bag project.
 - The Town is extending their financing ability on our behalf.
- The Town has also approved the funds for the five year project.

- The installation of the trap bag project must be completed by March 31.
- Russ Reilly contracting company in Islip will be doing the trap bag project.
 - This is the same company that did the project in Point of Woods.
- The cost of the trap bag project is \$34 a foot for scraping and filling the bags.
- The covering of the bags with sand adds a \$1 or \$2 to the per foot cost.
- If Reilly needs to come back in August there will be additional expenses.
- The bags are 6' x 3' x 4' at the bottom and taper at the top to 3' x 3' x 3', replicating a dune.
- Immediately following the trap bag installation, Bob Palermo will install sand fencing on the ocean side of the trap bags.
 - This must be done in a very short window of time to meet the March 31 deadline.
 - East Islip Lumber has put snow fencing on hold for us for delivery right after the trap bag project is complete.
 - The fencing will be installed in a zig zag pattern which is the most effective.
 - \$25,000 to \$30,000 from the Seashore Defense Fund will be spent on the snow fencing and its installation.
- Once we know the status of the trap bag project we will send out a blast email about debris removal and the hazards of turning electricity back on.
- The trap bag project can proceed regardless of the debris, however if the debris is removed after the installation, there is an increased possibility that the bags will be damaged.
 - Even the geo-tube installed by the co-ops years ago has a six foot tear in it.
- The Army Corps replenishment project is the Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) project.
 - It is unknown when this project will be completed but FIMP funding was included in the Hurricane Sandy Relief legislation passed by Congress.
 - Prior to this, FIMP has been unfunded for many years.
- The five year project is the project that FEMA will be paying 80% of.
 - The five year project is moving full steam ahead.

Debris Removal

- The experience we have had with the debris removal project is not very encouraging.
 - They don't understand the logistics of Fire Island in general and the Pines in particular.
- The Army Corp will also use local contractors to remove debris.
- Debris is being moved to Fire Island Boulevard.
- Tony's Barge would see a huge spike in workload if the hurricane debris was put out as regular garbage.
 - Tony's contract covers household trash and appliances, not hurricane debris.
- As long as there is the possibility that the Army Corp will do the removal, some people will wait for them.
- The most expeditious route is to tell the homeowners to arrange for debris removal themselves.
 - For many people this would be a nominal cost and would be partially covered by insurance.

Breach

- Because of the breach at Old Inlet, caused by Hurricane Sandy, there is either too much water in the bay or not enough.
- There have been times in the past when the bay was very shallow, but not as often as has been occurring since breach occurred.
- Senators Chuck Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand are informed and are supporting the position that the breach has to be repaired.
- Pagano is to meet with Gillibrand's Long Island staff this week.
- The economic implications to the communities on the Great South Bay due to the breach should be studied.

Boardwalks

- The Highway Departments says that once the trap bags are installed, they can begin rebuilding the walks and the access stairs to the beach.
 - Initially only every other set of access stairs to the beach will be built.
- FIPPOA sent a letter to the acting Highway Department Superintendent and received a call from him afterwards.
- The Highway Department will not hire outside contractors, due to the time required to satisfy the Brookhaven procedures.
- This week they are concentrating on the Sail Walk area and will then move on to the Nautilus Walk area.
- The worst areas are Sail, Nautilus and Cedar/Pine.
- Only about ten houses have garbage/gas sheds with doors that cannot be opened due to the damaged boardwalks.
 - FIPPOA will develop a list of houses that need repairs for shed access.
- The Mobility Access Cart cannot begin service until the boardwalks are fixed.

Membership

Jon Wilner, Membership Chair, reported.

- The total number of Members as of March 2, was 337.
- The total amount of Dues received was \$44,550.
- The optional \$100 donation on the membership form has generated \$6,400 for the Seashore Defense Fund.
- A follow up USPS mailing will be going out shortly to those who have not yet joined FIPPOA for 2013.
- A \$3,000 expenditure to purchase T shirts that will be offered for sale has been approved.
- Joey Mendoza has done a great design for the shirts and the shirts have been ordered.

Harbor

Jim Vandernoeth, Harbor Committee Chair, reported:

- We will have a report within a week of how much of the harbor electrical system needs to repair and an estimate of the cost to repair it.
 - We need to be prepared to replace most of the system at a cost of \$40,000 plus.
 - There are permitting issues in the harbor and therefore we cannot pursue reimbursement from FEMA.

- The stanchions on the west hook were all underwater.
- Even if the stanchions were raised there are electric conduits underneath the dock which can be damaged in high water.
- There was not much damage to the boards on the docks.
 - Dave Anderson will begin repairs of the boards when he returns to the Pines later in the month.
- The harbor office was also damaged and is not usable right now due to the flooding.
 - Bill Santangelo will look into the possibility of raising the office.
- Doug Stein included Pines Marina flyers with a 50% off coupon in his communications to 280 boaters.
- The flyers let these boaters know that the Pines Marina will be up and running for 2013.
- The marketing committee has already held one meeting and will meet again in the spring.
- The marketing campaign will concentrate on boaters along the south shore of Long Island.
- Another tactic is to encourage the harbormasters of other communities with damaged harbors which cannot accommodate boaters to encourage those boaters to visit the Pines.
 - Some boaters will stay in the nearest harbor as soon as they enter the inlet.
 - Venturing as far as the Pines can be daunting and boaters are nervous of the shallow water.
 - One of our commercial boaters hit bottom last week because the water was so low.
- Two boaters are not coming back as seasonal in 2013.
 - One of these will visit the Pines as transients on weekends.
- By mid April the recreational boaters will begin arriving for the season.

Noise

Paul Teixeira, Noise Committee Chair, reported.

- People currently on the committee are LaFontaine, Colin Glinsman, Patrick Riordan and Mike Hartstein.
 - The co-ops are going to be asked to appoint a representative to the committee.
 - This group has met three times by conference call over the winter.
 - A meeting is scheduled for March 19 with representatives of Fire Island Pines Ventures and Sip 'n Twirl.
 - One goal of the meeting is to convey residents' concerns about the noise.
 - Another goal is to develop an acceptable baseline and then to get the businesses to self-monitor the sound level and adjust as applicable.
- Some residents are to the point where they are considering going to the state liquor authority.
- In the new Pavilion building the tea area is open and the inside dance area is to have a retractable skylight, both of which will impact the noise level.
- Although it is not in writing, FIP Ventures has agreed not to use microphones or outside speakers for their drag brunch.
- Officer Bob Capodonna of the Suffolk Marine Bureau has reiterated that all people have to do is call the police and they often give citations.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Pollard

Director of Administration