

**Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association
123rd Annual Meeting
August 21, 2014**

Welcome

President Dick Cough welcomed ten Association members to the 123rd annual meeting of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society, held at the Bar Harbor Historical Society on Ledge lawn Avenue in Bar Harbor. In attendance were officers Dick Cough, Andy Shea, and Ellen Grover, Directors Les Brewer, Debbie Dyer, Jeff Dobbs, Scott West, Phil Cunningham and Bill Scott, and guest George Merrill. (Absent but excused were Jon Nicholson and Tom Testa). Mr. Cough thanked all for coming and called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from last summer's annual meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Election of Officers and Directors

Mr. Cough announced that Mrs. Grover had asked to resign the secretarial position, but, as no replacement had been found, he recommended the group elect the slate of Officers and seven Directors to the VIA Board as proposed with the understanding that a replacement would be found as soon as possible.

The motion to elect the following Board was moved, seconded, and carried:

President: Richard Cough

Vice-President: Andy Shea

Treasurer: Jon Nicholson

Secretary: Ellen Grover (temporarily)

Directors: Les Brewer, Phil Cunningham, Jeff Dobbs, Debbie Dyer,

William Scott,

Tom Testa, and Scott West

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Andy Shea, in Mr. Nicholson's absence, presented an overview of the endowment distributions, account balances, and major expenses for the previous year.

Mr. Cough reported that People's United Bank has agreed to remove themselves as Trustee of the O'Neill Trust; the four recipients of the Trust have signed both release and non judicial agreements. Attorney Jeff Jones is overseeing the final stages of the move and expects the Trust transfer to Bar Harbor and Banking and Trust services to be accomplished by the end of the year.

Mr. Cough reported that he has recently deposited \$2396.10 into a newly established account at the First Bank for the coins collected from the fountains over the past three years (approximately 1100 pounds of coins! It was suggested that the Association find a local service organization to collect, clean and deposit the coins in the future.

Glen Mary Report

Ellen Grover reported that Tom Savage is now providing routine spring maintenance and care of the park; the bench for Mary Shannon will be installed next spring, and modest reforestation is being considered.

Village Green

The proposed improvements to the Veterans Memorial were completed and dedicated on Veterans Day last November. Mr. Cough has contacted Mr. Paul McQuinn about donating a large granite slab to place on top of the memorial to protect the plaques and better preserve the memorial.

Shore Path

Mr. Cough reported that the reconstruction of the path in front of the Bar Harbor Inn will re-commence this fall. The early onset of winter last year, and the late arrival of spring, hampered progress, as did the Inn's desire to terminate construction when they opened last April. Mr. Cough reported he is engaged in ongoing discussions with the Inn regarding their financial commitment to the project.

Ongoing Projects

Grant's Park

Mr. Dobbs, representing The Bar Harbor Parks and Rec Committee, requested the VIA designate funds to be used for the renovation of the shore path at Grant's Park as a catalyst for the Town Council to commit to the project. Conceptual plans were shared, and the VIA moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that up to \$30,000 be earmarked for this endeavor over the next two years.

Museum of the Streets

The plan for the additional 20 panels written for Eden Street (Rt 3) and lower Main Street is to install them after completion of the MDOT Rt 3 reconstruction in 2016. Mr. Cough may ask the VIA and BHHS to provide funding if the Cruise Ship Committee fails to fund this next step in the process.

Signage

The creation and installation of the four Shore Path signs, and the signs for Glen Mary Park and Woodbury Park approved last year, are on hold. Members discussed the town's endeavor to regulate signage and agreed to wait and make sure our signs conform with the town's policy before proceeding.

Gifting Policy

The policy was reviewed. After discussion, the members voted unanimously to remove the \$10,000 limit from the criteria, and to add that the awards will be determined at the discretion of the board. It was suggested the policy be publicized in some manner.

Website

Members agreed that it is time for a website and facebook presence; Mr. Cough will contact Kathy MacLeod, who recently designed the same for the BHHS, to see if she is interested in doing a similar project for the VIA.

New Business

Historical Relics

Mr. Dobbs informed the members of the existence of several neglected historical relics (horse troughs and hitching posts at Greeley Ave. and Schooner Head Rd.) and suggested the VIA and BHHS request that the Parks and Rec Committee relocate them to more visible locations. So moved and passed unanimously.

Signage

Mr. Merrill suggested cell phone donations to the VIA could be generated by putting icons on the Museum of the Street signs; he volunteered to explore the

steps necessary to implement such a plan.

Visibility/Publicity

It was generally agreed that the VIA needs to establish a more public presence in the community, particularly through local newspaper and social media coverage.

An interesting discussion ensued regarding the additional accountability more visibility entails, and whether moving from the small group to a larger more public and social membership would be desirable.

One objective upon which everyone agreed was the need to recognize and thank those who donate services to the VIA (ie: Tom Savage and Paul MacQuinn and Bill McArtor).

Meeting Time

Mr. Cough introduced the idea of moving the August meeting date to a less busy time of year. Mr. Cunningham provided examples of unsuccessful attempts to do so in the past; after discussion, it was suggested that perhaps a late afternoon meeting, followed by a recognition social hour, might be tried next year to better accommodate members. Date of the 124th annual meeting of the VIA will be August 20, 2015.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved. Mr. Cough thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Grover
Secretary VIA