

Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association

125th Annual Meeting

August 18, 2016

Welcome

President Richard Cough welcomed 19 guests and Association members to the 125th annual meeting of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society, held at Testa's Restaurant, 53 Main St. in Bar Harbor. In attendance were officers: Richard Cough, Andy Shea, Kathy MacLeod and Jonathan Nicholson. Directors: Jeff Dobbs, Thomas Testa, Philip Cunningham and Scott West. Absent but excused were Deborah Dyer, Ellen Grover and Leslie Brewer.

Mr. Cough noted we are celebrating our 135th anniversary and 125th annual meeting this year. Our new logo and ad created by Jeff Dobbs, and Bar Harbor Village Improvement timeline done by Mr. Cough were on display. Mr. Cough thanked Mr. Dobbs.

Mr. Cough noted the passing of two our Life Members, Don Hobbs and Dr. John Hoche.

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.

Kathy MacLeod read the minutes of the Preliminary Annual Meeting which was held on August 11, 2016 at 33 LedgeLawn Ave. Richard Cough, Kathy MacLeod, Phil Cunningham, Tom Testa, Jeff Dobbs and Debbie Dyer were in attendance.

The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Election of Officers and Directors

Mr. Cough recommended the group elect the slate of Officers and seven Directors to the BHVIA Board

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

President: Richard Cough

Vice-President: Andy Shea

Secretary: Kathryn MacLeod

Treasurer: Jonathan Nicholson

Directors: Les Brewer, Phillip Cunningham, Deborah Dyer, Thomas Testa, Jeff Dobbs, Scott West, Ellen Grover

Treasurer`s Report

Mr. Jonathan Nicholson presented an overview of the endowment distribution, account balances, and major expenses for the previous year.

Fountain Fund

\$707.79 was added to the fountain fund account this past year. There is a balance of \$3113.30. Mr. Nicholson and his son, Kyle did most of the coin cleaning and redemption this year.

Old Business

Mr. Cough reported 2016 was an eventful year for the VIA with many notable changes and improvements.

Glen Mary

Ellen Grover`s Report

The town assumed responsibility this spring for the annual clean-up which had previously been done by Tom Savage's crew. Dick and Ellen walked the area with Cornell and Chip to better appreciate the grounds and expectations. We expressed concern about the amount and nature of the spring 'trimming' along our property on Spring St. and Glen Mary Road. Dick asked Cornell to ascertain if the end of Glen Mary Road adjacent to the park should be signed 'no parking' and Cornell later verified that was correct. The town put up signage, and also seeded and grassed several patches that needed attention. (They also replaced the fence around the pool and the swing set.)

Ellen removed and then replaced three shrubs that had died along Waldron Road. Azaleas at the corner of Waldron and Glen Mary have since died and will need to be replaced.

Question: I hand watered the three new shrubs for weeks....I saw the town had a water truck they used on the grass they seeded - maybe we could ask them to spray those shrubs occasionally, especially when it is dry?

And we have a sign! (Thank you, Dick)

The problematic bench at the top of Park Street has seen daily use, but I am very happy to report that after the first week of the return of the late night summer renters, and a visit from the Police Department, we have been complaint free. There was one incident of campers last week which the Police Department took care of. We appreciate their efforts in patrolling the area.

Village Green

Jeff Gamage of Freshwater Brick and Stone donated a large granite slab cap to place on top of the Veterans Memorial to protect the new plaques. Mr. Cough stated how nice it looks and thanked Mr. Gamage.

Thank you to Mr. Alexander for maintenance of the Village Green Clock.

Shore Path

Mr. Cough reported that Mr. MacQuinn started repairs but did not complete the work of resurfacing the washed out section between Hancock Street and Grant Park. Mr. McArtor was thanked for his work on the southern end. In the near future, repairs and replacement of the seawall will have to be considered near Reef Point.

Grant Park

Mr. Cough reported the VIA committed \$30,000 two years ago for improvements on Grant Park section of Shore Path Walkway. The project should begin sometime this fall. We will have final say in how the path is constructed.

Jeff Dobb's update

Mr. Dobbs, representing Bar Harbor Parks and Recreation Committee, showed a design plan for the Grant Park renovation which he will present to the Bar Harbor Town Council. The plan calls for two granite stairways leading to the water, mini-amphitheater, and arch area looking over the ocean. The park will be irrigated.

The town will need to rebuild the roadway to Balance Rock, and the pumping station. The plan will go out to bid after it is approved.

Woodbury/How Park

Mr. Cough reported all shrubs and trees were trimmed substantially by Cooper Gardens last fall. The How Memorial is much more visible now. Mr. Cough would like the bench dedicated to Les Brewer placed at Woodbury/How Park.

Phil Cunningham stated the appropriate name for the park is How Park.

There was a discussion about the possibility of placing the bench at Grant Park. We would need approval by the town in order to do so.

Ongoing Projects

Museum in the Streets

Mr. Cough is waiting for the new panels for Rt. 3 which will be installed after completion of the MDOT Project in 2018.

New Signs

The new VIA signs are in place and look quite attractive. Four signs on the shore path and one at the Village Cemetery were replaced. New signs were installed at Glen Mary and Woodbury Park. There is a brief history of each park on the signs. The total cost including lay-out, fabrication and installation was \$3500.00.

Website

There were additions made to our website by Mr. Cough and Ms. MacLeod this past winter. They added more pages, a photo gallery, BHVIA information and Mr. Dobb's VIA video was added to the homepage.

Ms. MacLeod reported that the VIA video reached 17,204 people on Facebook and was viewed by 6,200.

Our Facebook page has 660 likes.

Our website had 2,102 views from Dec. 2014-Dec. 2015

Jan. 2016 to Aug. 2106-1,118 views

MDOT Route 3. Project

The BHVIA is sending a letter to the Town Council stating our concerns about the MDOT project. We hope to have more input in the future. The BHVIA is the recipient of funds raised for the beautification of MDOT Gateway Project. Three areas we would like to upgrade/change:

1. The surface material for the pedestrian path is asphalt which isn't aesthetically pleasing or enticing. Upgrade to brick or some other more inviting material.
2. The lack of trees. Planting shade trees would attract more people to walk.
3. The location of a bike crosswalk with good signage needs to be placed above Harbor Lane, not West St. extension which is a dangerous 4-way intersection.

There will be a meeting at the Town Office Aug. 24, 2016 with MDOT and landscaper, Larry Johannesman.

New Business

Hub of Bar Harbor is going to place dog waste bag stations at various locations throughout town and at Hadley Point. Glen Mary is on their list for future installations.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and approved. Mr. Cough thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the celebration of our 125th annual meeting and 135th anniversary.

The date of the 126th annual meeting is August 17, 2017 at 10:00am, 33 Ledgelawn Ave., Bar Harbor

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn MacLeod

Secretary VIA

