

Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association

124th Annual Meeting

August 20, 2015

Welcome

President Richard Cough welcomed 14 Association members to the 124th annual meeting of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society, held at the Bar Harbor Historical Society on Ledgelawn Avenue in Bar Harbor. In attendance were officers Richard Cough, Andy Shea, Ellen Grover and Jonathan Nicholson. Directors: Jeff Dobbs, Thomas Testa, Philip Cunningham and William Scott. Absent but excused were Deborah Dyer, Scott West and Leslie Brewer.

Mr. Cough noted the passing of one our Life Members, Dorothy Erikson.

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 the resignation of Ellen Grover as secretary. William Scott asked to step down from the board. Kathryn MacLeod was nominated to replace Mrs. Grover. Mr. Cough recommended the group elect the slate of Officers and seven Directors to the VIA 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

There was a discussion of how best to acknowledge Les Brewer`s time and contributions to the Village Improvement Association. A suggestion was made to place an engraved bench at Grant Park or Woodbury Park.

Treasurer`s Report

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

O`Neil Trust-Peoples United Bank officially removed themselves as Trustee of the O`Neil Trust on October 1. 2014. We were authorized to spend up to \$10, 000 to make the move and spent a total of \$4830 divided between four O`Neil non-profits.

\$1000 was paid to Mariah Grover for designing the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association website.

\$2000 for maintenance of Village Clock. Thank you to Mr. Alexander.

Fountain Fund

No new funds were added to the fountain fund account this past year, and in the future, hopefully, all coin cleaning and redemption will be done by a willing organization in Bar Harbor.

Old Business

Mr. Cough reported 2015 was an eventful year for the VIA with many notable changes and improvements.

Glen Mary

Mr. Cough said a formal engraved granite bench dedicated to Mary Shannon, donor of Glen Mary, was delivered and installed in November of 2014. A new 10 year lease for Glen Mary was signed with the Town of Bar Harbor (tree maintenance). Mr. Cough discussed with Town Manager, Cornell Knight the possibility of turning Glen Mary over to the Town. After a brief discussion, and neighborhood concern, the consensus was to continue as is.

Ellen Grover`s Report

The park received its annual but now minimalist spring clean-up from Tom Savage's crew, and the azalea garden its spring mulch and maintenance from Ellen, who also does periodic trash patrol.

We are planning to replace the dead tree at the corner of Spring and Waldron, and the dead azalea in the circle at Waldron and Glen Mary. We also plan to plant at the end of the pool driveway where a large tree was removed last year.

There will be a wedding ceremony in the park September 12.

Concerns:

Responsibility for Maintenance:

We ran into some confusion this year regarding responsibility for removing hazardous trees; Mr. Cough has confirmed with the town that this is their responsibility according to the lease agreement.

Parking: long term use of shoulder of park on Glen Mary Rd.

Mr. Cough apparently took care of one problem this summer; in addition, the taxi company is using Glen Mary as a parking spot on a frequent basis and has once again eroded the grassy area. If, in fact, there is no parking permitted on the west side of Glen Mary Rd., it may be time for the town to extend the signs to the part of the street that our holdings border?

Noise:

We have had an issue with night visitors (renters on Norris Ave.) in the woods, using the bench at the top of Park St. for a late beer/social time before retiring. Unfortunately, while not rowdy, they are loud and apparently unaware of how sound carries. They have been asked by neighbors and on several occasions by the police to respect day use of the park with little effect. If this persists, the bench may be relocated.

Leftover debris in woods:

I believe we have been asking the town to remove the old water pipes and hoses that run through the woods for about five years.

Town Manager, Cordell Knight participated in a conversation concerning the town's responsibility in maintaining and policing of Glen Mary Park. A motion was passed to consider dusk to dawn signs, appropriate parking, and regular police patrols.

Mr. Shea suggested the possibility of parking on Spring Street. VIA would need to bring issues to Parking and Traffic Committee. Walk the area first to get a better idea of the possibilities for more/better parking.

Village Green

Mr. Cough is waiting for Paul MacQuinn to contact him about donating a large granite slab cap to place on top of the Veterans Memorial to protect the new bronze plaques.

There was a discussion about enlarging the bandstand:

Mr. Booher made arrangements for additional seating required this summer for the orchestra.

Mr. Dobbs stated there is a process to go through for any changes to the bandstand. Gladys O`Neil wanted no changes made to the bandstand.

Shore Path

Mr. Cough reported Mr. MacQuinn completed the work improving and widening 900 feet of the Shore Path to 6 feet in front of the Bar Harbor Inn. Bar Harbor Inn donated \$10,000 to the VIA for the improvements. The old rail was removed and replaced with 80 feet of new rail with PVC posts. Fred Link, BH Inn manager is pleased with the aesthetic value the improvements have added to the property. Total cost for the project was \$25916, \$15,000 below budget. Mr. Cough thanked volunteer, Bill AcArtor , for his efforts to maintain the end of the path.

Grant Park

Mr. Cough reported the VIA committed \$30,000 last year for improvements on Grant Park section of Shore Path Walkway.

Jeff Dobb`s update

Mr. Dobbs, representing Bar Harbor Parks and Rec Committee, reported property abutters are pretty close to finalizing drainage plans. Drainage issues with Balance Rock Inn need to be resolved.

Improvements will proceed when drainage plan is finalized

Ongoing Projects

Mr. Cough reported there are 20 more panels Museum in the Streets written for Eden Street (RT. 3) and lower Main Street. If the Cruise Ship Committee is unable to fund this project, funds will be requested from Bar Harbor Historical Society and Village Improvement Association for the \$20,000 project. Signs should be ready for installation after completion of MDOT Rt.3 project.

Mr. Cough reported the new village signs are very attractive and mostly in place. Many signs were removed for a net decrease in signage around town. The sign company has agreed to do four signs for the Shore Path, one for Glen Mary and one for Woodbury Park. The proposed cost will be approximately \$1700.00 for each layout.

Mr. Cough stated our new website; barharborvia.org has been online since December. The VIA website allows people to donate online. Mariah Grover did the technical work. Mr. Cough and Mrs. Grover wrote the script. Mr. Cunningham helped with some of the content.

The website has had 1,761 views from December 2014-August 2015.

Mr. Nicholson reported we have a QR Code available for online donations on Smart Phones.

Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association is sending an action letter to MDOT expressing concern about maintaining the character of the entranceway to the community of Bar Harbor they save and replace as much stone as possible during the Rt. 3 project. Much of the stonework has historical value. Mr. Cough stated the MDOT is committed to preserving 1300 ft. of stone walls.

New Business

VIA Gift Applications:

1. COA- funding for garden restorations on campus
2. Jeff Dobbs- funding for his documentary on Acadia`s Centennial

The board will discuss and make a decision about each application during a private board meeting.

Mrs. Grover would like dog waste receptacles placed in parks in Bar Harbor. She will talk to the Town Council about the possibility and how to proceed.

Sargent Collier offered to care for shrubs at Woodbury Park.

Kathryn MacLeod set up a Facebook page for Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association. 251 people have liked our page since May, 2015.

Thank you notes need to be sent to Mariah Grover, Bill McArtor, Tom Savage, Paul MacQuinn and EBS who have donated services and time to the VIA.

The date of the 125th annual meeting of the VIA is August 18th at 9:30 at Testa`s Restaurant.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and approved. Mr. Cough thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn MacLeod

Secretary VIA

