



The Town of Fenwick Island

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BEACH COMMITTEE MAY 23, 2018 AT 6:00 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance

Becca McWilliams, Richard Mais, Nancy Merritt, Sharon Ruble

Also in Attendance

Chris Distefano, Tim Ferry, Terry Tieman

Absent

Virginia Childers-Davidson, Lizbeth Lear, Jacky Pfeifer, Elise Rubenstein, Stuart Rubenstein

Becca called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was not present, therefore this is not an official meeting and the minutes taken below are for discussion only.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Sharon, seconded by Nancy, to accept the minutes from the October 26, 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. *Note: the minutes will need to be approved again at the next meeting when a quorum is present.*

Discussion

Becca stated that she still has 2 boxes of the t-shirts available for the Fenwick Freeze. The t-shirts will be sold at the Town bonfire for \$10.

As for the bonfire, Becca asked the Committee how they would like to proceed with the event this year – do the usual with a silent auction and sell the t-shirts, or just sell the t-shirts. Chris asked why this is being brought up, and Becca replied that she is not sure where the proceeds raised are going. Terry responded that the money raised goes to the lifeguard competition and the lifeguard equipment. Becca was under the impression that the Town bought all of the equipment for the lifeguards, and it did not come out of the Beach Committee Fund. Terry confirmed that the purchase of the defibrillators come out of the Beach Committee Fund.

Becca noted that the Beach Committee was formed to promote the lifeguards and cover the costs for the annual competition. Since parties are now out, Becca asked if the money could be used for something else. Terry noted that the lifeguards are still having their annual breakfast at the beginning of the season and the dinner at the end of the season. Tim commented that he thought those two events were covered by the Town and not the Beach Committee.

Becca would like for the money raised from the bonfire and Fenwick Freeze to go into an account for competitions only and is not sure why there is no money in reserves. Terry noted that currently the account has a negative balance and there have been only two times in the last five years where the account was in the positive: one time at \$3,615 and the other time at \$3.55.

Becca stated that the cost of the glow sticks for the bonfire should not be coming out of the Beach Committee Fund but should be paid for by the Town. Terry confirmed that it is paid for by the Town, but the Beach Committee Fund is still running a deficit. Chris stated that there was no way the Fund had no money. Terry replied that she had the numbers in front of her that show that more is being spent than

what was earned. Becca stated that the Town then must be taking money out of the Beach Committee Fund to have the bonfire. Terry responded no, that the money is only spent on the lifeguard competitions, the lifeguard breakfast & dinner, and bonfire t-shirts. The Fund is also used for Fenwick Freeze t-shirts, employee relations, and travel expenses.

Becca feels that the money raised from the bonfire and Fenwick Freeze should cover the competitions and nothing else. Terry noted that the Beach Committee needs to cover some of the bonfire expenses. Becca responded that in the past the Beach Committee never had to cover the expenses. Terry commented yes, since 2015. Chris added that the numbers can be smoothed anyway that we (the Town) wants. Terry responded that the Town does not do that. Becca stated that once the Beach Committee started making money in 2015 is when the Town started charging a portion of the bonfire expenses to the Beach Committee. Terry commented that some of the revenues need to cover expenses. Becca said now she knows, but the Committee was never made aware of that.

Chris stated "that you (the Town) can massage things anyway you want". Terry responded that the Town doesn't "massage" things. Tim commented that the money is now being grouped unlike prior to 2015 where there was always a surplus of at least \$1,500 to cover the Fenwick Freeze expenses after the summer competitions and bonfire were over. Also at the time, the only expenses that were charged against the Beach Committee Fund were for the costs of the t-shirts.

Terry noted that the Town has spent \$1,371 in 2014, \$1,359 in 2015, \$2,069 in 2016 and \$1,662 in 2017 for the bonfire. The Town purchases the glow sticks, firewood, the d.j., rents portable toilets, and purchases the raffle tickets. Tim added that Craig Pfeifer donates the first 145 of the t-shirts then the rest is paid out of the Beach Committee Fund. Terry noted the following costs for the t-shirts: \$546 in 2015, \$260 in 2016, and \$1,512 in 2017 for the bonfire; \$2,850 in 2015, \$590 in 2016, and \$1,563 in 2017 for the Fenwick Freeze. Terry confirmed again that the expenses charged to the Beach Committee are competition expenses, annual breakfast/dinner, t-shirts, and employee relations. Tim feels that employee relations should not be taken out of the Beach Committee Fund.

Becca noted the expenses for the bonfire are \$10,000+ and added the bonfire is a Town function not a Beach Committee. The Committee only sells the t-shirts at the bonfire to raise money for the lifeguards so no expenses should be charged to the Beach Committee. Terry noted that the Beach Committee did have income of \$55,783.54 in the last 5 years, but the expenses were \$63,564.00, which does not include what the Town spends on the bonfire.

Chris commented that at the beginning of the meeting it was stated that the Beach Committee Fund is spent on competitions and equipment. Terry confirmed that was what she was told by the Town Council. Tim commented that equipment was never charged against the Beach Committee Fund since he has been on the Committee, and even when Gene Langan was on the Committee. Tim asked which Council Members are stating that the equipment should come out of the Beach Committee Fund.

Becca questioned if there was a certain amount of money that needs to be raised from the bonfire for the competition expenses. Terry responded there was not a certain amount and the amount has been different every year depending upon the number of lifeguards being sent to the competition. This year it is budgeted for Tim and 2 lifeguards to attend the competition. Tim added that there are a lot of factors that go into the competition expenses and some years expenses are more or less depending upon the location of the competition. His hope is to send more than 2 lifeguards since the 3 national championships that the F.I.B.P. won were in relay events. Terry responded that it is not up to her but the Town Council on how many participants can attend the competition.

Terry noted that she has been instructed by the Town Auditor and Town Solicitor that the money for competitions needs to be accounted for and put in the budget. Tim asked if there was any additional money available if 2-3 more lifeguards could attend this year's competition. Terry responded that Dean keeps account of the funds received by the bonfire. Richard suggested that Tim provide the Town Council the number that needs to go so the amount can be budgeted. Becca added that since the bonfire is in July and the competition is only a few weeks later, maybe Tim could provide the count to the Town Council next year and any proceeds from the bonfire this year could then build up the reserve.

Chris asked what would happen if the bonfire didn't occur and how would the lifeguards get funding for their competitions. Terry responded that the money raised in the past was not just for competitions but for dinners as well. Richard added that the Town is responsible for how the funds are distributed. Tim then asked if the competition expenditures were in the budget for the Beach Committee. Terry responded that the amount that Tim provided her was put under the Lifeguard budget.

Tim asked what he would need to do in order to request additional lifeguards to attend the competition this year. Terry responded that he would need to do a budget revision and then get it approved by Town Council.

Becca questioned if there was no Beach Committee then would there still be a bonfire. Terry responded that it would be up to the Town Council.

Becca then asked the Committee how extensive they would like the bonfire this year and if the auction should be done or just t-shirt sales. Sharon questioned how much less will be raised if we have no auction and Becca replied around \$2,000. Chris asked how much was budgeted for Tim and the 2 lifeguards to attend the competition this year. Tim responded about \$3,000, but if the bonfire raises more than that, he would like to take at least 2 more lifeguards. Nancy feels that the auction is needed for extra money in reserves. Tim added that with the additional 2 lifeguards he would like to take to the competition, the rooms that are already reserved could be reused for the additional lifeguards so the only additional expenses would be gas, toll, and food. Sharon suggested if the Committee decides to do the auction that Nancy do the letters to the businesses like she did last year. Tim asked if the letters are generated that if it could be mentioned to drop off the donations to Town Hall. Becca feels that the auction is a lot of additional extra work. Richard noted that in his business in South Bethany, he is approached by their lifeguards all the time for donations. Nancy volunteered to go with the lifeguards to the businesses. Tim said he could stagger the shifts of the lifeguards so they could approach businesses during the day. Becca noted that when she and Nancy asked for donations last year, it was usually after 5:00 instead of during the day. Tim responded that he could put in overtime for the lifeguards after work. Nancy suggested that businesses donating items should drop off at least 10 day prior to the bonfire since some did not donate until the actual day of the bonfire.

Becca asked if someone could confirm that Craig Pfeifer will be doing the t-shirts. Tim responded that he will check with him this week. Becca requested that if he does do the t-shirts to have him check with her first on the quantity before ordering. Tim suggested that Craig be told that the t-shirt need to be ready by July 1st since they did not arrive last year until the day of the bonfire.

Caleb from the Bank of Ocean City will be the d.j. for the bonfire. Becca asked if everyone was still in favor of the glow sticks. Terry responded that it is in the Town budget, along with the firewood, d.j., portable toilets, and raffle tickets. Becca confirmed that Bryan will do the lights like last year and dig the hole for the bonfire.

Becca asked the time the bonfire should take place. Nancy suggested 7:00-11:00. Tim suggested 7:00-10:30 since it usually takes at least ½ hour to clean up. He also suggested that the games for the kids be from 7:30-8:30. Becca noted that maybe the games should start earlier since last year a lot of kids were standing around waiting. Nancy suggested that maybe in the advertisement it can be noted that the games will start at 7:15. Richard thinks that the kids should have something to do starting at 7:00, even if it is a skim boarding contest or games provided by Tidepool Toys. Tim suggested that the event start at 7:00, but the games sponsored by the lifeguards not start until 7:30, and the d.j. can announce 5 minutes before the games start. Becca commented that at least 1-2 guards should be available beginning at 7:00 to accommodate the kids, or maybe do a limbo or another game that the d.j. can help out with.

Nancy wanted to confirm on the letter to the businesses if she should include that the funds will go towards the Beach Committee or the lifeguard competition. Becca said the letter should state towards the lifeguard competition.

Becca confirmed the location of the bonfire at Dagsboro Street, with the port-a-potty's being placed at Bayard and Cannon. Terry commented that Bayard could not be used because of the staging of the equipment for the beach replenishment. Sharon suggested both port-a-potty's be placed on Cannon since that is a central location.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held after the bonfire. The date will be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.