

Surfside Association Annual Meeting

July 9, 2022

President Tom Szydowski opened the meeting at 10:00 am with approximately 40 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The first order of business was the approval of the July 10, 2021 minutes. A motion was approved by voice vote.

Speaker

Stephen Arceneaux, director of the DPW.

He's replaced Rob McNeil.

Tom asked him to update us on the status of the DPW as well as to address issues specific to Surfside, namely, Lovers Lane and the other roads.

If there are any issues, we would like to bring up to him, he suggests we contact him through our association's president or directly to him via text. (His email is inundated with mail so will not likely be seen). DPW is currently understaffed. He is going to hire a town engineer, a waste manager and several people for their work crews. He asks for patience and will communicate more with the community.

He was Mr. McNeil's deputy since June 2018. He took on interim director. Then they lost quite a bit of their department at once. He is hiring the appropriate people for the job and is working on bringing the department to where it should be.

A permit services coordinator will be on island to put forth more effort to communicate better with our contractors. Permitting is a huge problem on the island. We are not using it properly we could be doing more for revenue for the town, and we need to be doing more for the protection of abutters or neighbors who are next door or down the street from people who are developing their properties. Parking is out of control. He is going to start implementing control mechanisms while at the same time maintaining a good working relationship.

Stephen's background is mostly in civil engineering and the military. He worked in HVAC, power production (primarily in the Army). Studied geological engineering, power plant and utility, built communities for groups as small as 15 to as big as 5000, has been a deputy director and director for the Army as well.

Question -Roads – tell us about Lovers Lane.

Answer – Plans in place to start in the fall. Part of the problem has been coordination with permitting and legal boundaries. Not just DPW issues, but real estate, GPI engineering.

With the roads comes drainage, with the drainage there needs to be support, once the road is hardened and elevated to the right point and create the catch basins, etc. this is going to affect the surrounding areas so all that has to be taken in consideration. We have been more inclusive during the decision-making process so that once it's implemented everyone is on board.

Q – Does that mean that the permanent lake on DavKim can be fixed or are you not going to deal with that?

A – It's off the board as of right now. We are exploring options. But there are certain roads that fall into “no mans land”. It's private but there's no HOA or neighborhood support.

Q – do you see that changing? (no support for the “no mans land” roads) It's hard for emergency vehicles to navigate.

A – We must have a better process for “taking” roads.

Plans to redo Surfside Road from Fairgrounds/South Shore to Surfside beach to enhance the drainage, etc.

Q – Bike path from Airport to Surfside timetable.

A – No not yet. He is putting together a list of prioritizing the projects.

Q – Boulevard, Okorwaw, Monohansett and Lovers Lane were lumped in together to be fixed.

This was turned down at the ballot box, so it was decided the project needed to be done in phases.

Obviously, the Boulevard phase (new road and bike path) was completed. The Lovers Lane phase is next to be done with the manual labor part beginning in the fall. (There was a delay due to COVID).

We want to make sure that the Okorwaw and Monohansett phases are on the docket for the next town meeting as well as the next budget meeting.

Q – Will Pochick be done?

A – There is no plan for it yet. There is a fund that includes road work and storm drainage in general. He is going to look into whether a portion of those funds can be allocated to the Pochick issue.

Q – Two Monohansett road issues – 1. Portion of road has deteriorated/so narrow only one car pass at a time 2. When the water was run to the houses on the other side of the airport a fire hydrant was left to run for several days resulting with a massive dip in the road that now fills with water.

A – That’s where we had the big PfAS scare. Most of the catch basins take two to three days to drain. The rainwater we are getting is getting more and more intense as well as the sea level is getting higher and higher. Therefore, as a group effort between DPW, Sewer as well as some other town agencies are looking at how to do a whole sweep of the island to finally get all of the storm water properly connected. It is a remnant of the old storm water sewer system. However, in the meantime they have a “surgical” plan that can’t wait. He will put Pochick on this list, Nonantum is on the list (he has gotten several calls regarding Nonantum already). He will add Masaquet to the list.

Q – Can there be a temporary repair to the sides of the road?

A –He will work with Richard Moore on that to see if there is availability for that, however, there needs to be approval and there needs to be funding. He is not sure if doing it piece meal will make sense.

Q – Lets go back to the pond on Monohansett. The questioner was at an airport commission meeting, and they claim there is no water flowing off the apron. There is nothing stopping the water from flowing out of the airport onto the road. When it floods it gets 2 feet deep.

Also, with regards to the area of Monohansett where the road has deteriorated; you have to drive off the road in order for another car to pass and if someone is walking or riding their bike there, they are in danger.

This fix needs to be done sooner rather than later.

A – He will put it on the table and get it discussed

Q – Garbage at the beaches. At one point the garbage had been collected at Fisherman's and it seems not to be happening. Can this change?

A – Unfortunately, visitors took gross advantage of it so they had to pull the pickup from a variety of beaches. He does not think Fisherman's was one of these beaches. But will look into it.

Q – Who do we contact regarding the repair of stairs to the beach at fisherman?

A – Facilities has been watching certain beaches and are reactive to others. Put a work order in alerting them of the damage. Tom will send out a link to the email to put a work order in.

Stephen – Let me explain how we operate.

From Madaket when the teams leave their truck is loaded for one specific task, ie. Pot holes. So that truck will repair pot holes across the whole island all day beginning with a compiled list from the work orders received. And there is a chance that they may not be able to repair all of them in one day. Then another day is mowing, etc.

We don't have enough people to react. Our number one priority is trash and then we may do one or two more jobs during the day ie. mowing and trees or pot holes and grating.

Q – I'd like to double down on the trash at Fisherman's. With or without barrels there will be trash there. We need barrels put back there.

A – We're trying to get a hold of the situation. Fisherman's seems to be one of the places we pulled the trash collection. I will get in touch with Richard Moore and see what the process is to get them back there.

Q – There is a detention drainage basin at the end of Nonantum before you turn onto Lovers Lane that has collapsed and it needs to be rebuilt. There are a lot of

children, bicyclists and pedestrians around there. It is not safe and needs to be addressed immediately.

A – I will talk to my guys and to sewer to see if they can lend a hand when I do my storm water work route.

Officer's Report

Presidents Report –

Nantucket Lights – an initiative to help people get informed about the light usage on the island. A lot of people are violating the regulations by using uplighting as well as the wrong wattage in their outdoor light fixtures. This contributes to the light pollution on the island. Please refrain from leaving outdoor lights on even when you're not on island.

Surfside Crossing – not too much happening there. Still tied up in Massachusetts court. Both the Land Council and Tipping Point were given the ability to make their case which had not been allowed previously.

Airport – A resident from Skyline is now the chairman of the airport commission so hopefully that works in the Surfside Association's favor.

There is an online complaint form for when the planes fly over your houses; however, it is very hard to find. A link will be sent along with the link to the DPW work order site. It is important to keep the airport aware of the situation otherwise the amount of planes flying over the houses will increase.

Short term rentals were a big issue at the town meeting. There were 3 articles that went to town meeting. One was regulating them, one was allowing STRs anytime/anywhere and the other was permitting them for residents-only at certain time and limiting everyone else. It was clear that no one liked anything that was going on with the specific regulations. The article passed to regulate short term rentals. So people that do short term rentals must comply with a variety of registration things. The other two did not pass. They were passed off to a work group selected by the select board.

A request for stop signs will be placed on Lovers Lane at Okorwaw and on Boulevard at Clifford. We are on the agenda for July 21. There are some state regulations. At least we will request the brush to be cut back.

Q – Can a speed bump be put on the Boulevard?

A – Probably not, however Tom will contact the Police Chief to make him aware.

4th of July – Crowded, very good, no arrests, no incidents, police shut down Nobadeer beach when it reached vehicle capacity

Clifford Williams put out two articles 1. to rezone a 2 parcel of land on Skyline Drive, in a 2 acre zoning area, to build multiple affordable houses. 2. was to hook up his sewer and water from Richmond Great Point which was how he was going to be able to build multiple houses. That was withdrawn at Town Meeting to be addressed next year. We supported the neighbors who are members in opposition. If neighbors have an issue with abutters, the association can support the neighbors which can bear some weight with the town.

Youth Hostel – Nothing really has happened. Tom suggested putting the neighbors on Western Avenue in touch with each other since only direct abutters get the formal letters from the Planning board or the HDC.

Treasurers Report –

2021 Financial Statement handed out

As of July 6, 134 paying dues in and some donations.

20 members short from last year however there are some late payers.

Please encourage neighbors to join the association especially those who live here year round.

Our cash balance is \$30,920.

Tom pointed out we have the lowest dues of all of the associations.

It's important to have a significant amount of members so that when we have to advocate for something we can make a difference.

Q – Did we advertise in the I&M that this meeting was taking place?

A – No. We sent out a letter to the membership that included the details for the meeting then an e-mail was sent to the list of roughly 250 people and then a follow up reminder was sent to the list.

It maybe a good idea to advertise so that non members can be aware. Possibly for the August meeting?

Q – Do we have to carry \$30,000 on the books? Should we think about an island cause to donate some of it to?

A – We should do something

- Commission a bench?
- Project of some kind?

Send in suggestions to Tom .

Q – Can we supply doggy waste bags to stop people from leaving the waste?

Next month, our speaker is Brooke Mohr from the Select Board.

Steve Chase – reported that the golf tournament will be held on August 8 at Skinners at 2pm. 9 hole scramble. Reception to follow. An email will follow. All golfers (regardless of skill) are welcome.

Ned Fawcett – there are three parties coming up –

July 23 at Tom and JByrd's.

August 23 at the Townsends

September 4 at the Szydowski's

Ned discussed our season-long fishing tournament.

We are still looking for a permanent secretary for the board meetings.

Our next meeting is August 13 at 4 Fairgrounds @ 10am

Meeting adjourned at 11:09