

POENB
Meeting Minutes of February 1st 2019

The February meeting was held at the Eaton's Neck Fire Department upstairs meeting room and began at 7:36PM with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call of officers:

Frank Bonomo, President; Nora Beck, Treasurer; Nick Cavuoto, Assistant Vice-President; Gene Caputo, Assistant Vice-President; Julie Hendricks-Atkins, Corresponding Secretary; Steve Neuf, Recording Secretary. Ryan Cote was absent.

Membership in attendance:

There were 13 members in attendance.

Minutes (Readings and Update):

A motion was made to accept the January 2019 meeting minutes as published in the Changing Tides. The motion was seconded and voted on to approve.

Correspondence:

Frank began by reflecting on the hardship caused by the recent government shutdown, which came upon our local Coast Guard families. POENB member Maryann Timlen offered to help those in need by organizing a collection of gift cards to help offset their financial burdens. Maryann then gave us some of the details: \$2,370 was collected (primarily gift cards for groceries and gas). The Coast Guard was very appreciative and thanked Eaton's Neck residents for their support. We thank Maryann for heading up this worthwhile campaign!

Julie continued with an email the board received from our new Fire Chief Steve Zulawski. Steve wanted clarify a recent Changing Tides edition in which we published a communication from the Board of Fire Commissioners under a header of the Eaton's Neck Fire Department. Steve made the distinction clear between the two entities and we agreed to make certain to handle future correspondence accordingly.

We received an email from John Ballow following the recent storm which brought down a tree between Bevin Road and the Coast Guard road, resulting in a power outage and the closure of Eaton's Neck Road for several hours. John indicated this particular stretch of road is susceptible to frequent falls and perhaps the TOH or PSEG could come down to assess the risk. The board agreed to follow up.

We received a solicitation from the Long Island Ducks to hold a POENB night at one of their upcoming baseball games. We forwarded the correspondence to POENB Social Chair Bethany Pokorny.

Membership

Nick Cavuoto provided an update on the “POENB Buyers’ Group” that he and John Ballow are spearheading (at John’s suggestion). In 2019, POENB is establishing a “buyers’ group” in which POENB members will receive discounted goods and services from participating local vendors and retailers. Nick and John are reaching out to local restaurants and stores, as well as home service providers including landscapers, driveway repair / maintenance, carpentry, plumbing, etc. The discounts will be yet another membership benefit that we hope will help generate new members for our Association in this critical year.

If you would like to help establish the POENB buyers’ group, please contact John Ballow. He and Nick need assistance from volunteers who are willing to contact local businesses and ask them to participate in this program.

Additionally, we have ordered printed POENB membership cards for 2019 which will be distributed to current POENB member households. These cards will be useful when claiming the POENB Buyers’ Group discount from participating merchants.

Gene reminded the membership to welcome any new residents to our neighborhood and to please forward their names & addresses to the board so we may follow up with them and print a welcome message in the Changing Tides.

Frank drew our attention to Maria Siragusa’s Super Bowl box fundraiser. It was well-received and generated \$1000, which was then donated to POENB. Thank you Maria!!

Social

Bethany gave us an update on recent and upcoming events. Everyone agreed, PINGO night was a lot of fun! This event also raised \$3,000 for our planned bulkhead project. Thank you to all who supported the event. We look forward to another PINGO, perhaps this summer on the beach.

The February 24th showing of Buddy Holly at The Engeman Theater has a POENB rebate code. If you are planning to attend, please use the code when buying your tickets, so POENB receives a portion of the proceeds.

Casino night will be held one night in March (date TBD). This event is for POENB members and their non-resident guests or prospective members who are residents.

A paper shredding fundraiser is tentatively planned for April 7th. Bethany is checking into the possibility of holding a POENB night at a Long Island Ducks baseball game (just an outing, not a fundraiser).

Bethany asked to dedicate a special thank-you section in the Changing Tides to acknowledge the businesses who will donate to our Casino Night fundraiser. Finally, Bethany proposed an event modeled on the Kiwanis Club 50/50. Nora will investigate the regulations on such an event.

Report of the Treasurer

Nora read the proposed 2019 budget. A motion was made to approve the budget which was seconded then unanimously approved. A few minor questions were asked regarding the bank fee & utility expenses. The 2019 budget was approved by a unanimous vote of those members in attendance (*see proposed budget at the end of the minutes*).

Maria suggested a possible tour of the Carr mansion as a fundraiser. A previous event she indicated had raised \$8,000. Michael Carr indicated to her that he would be willing to help us out with a similar event. Thank you Maria - we will investigate.

A member inquired about the action items following the fundraising committee meeting which was held at Julie's house in November. Julie explained that during the first six months of 2019, the Board will be focused on a strong push to increase memberships. The first six months of the year (through June) are the prime season for households to join POENB. If every one of the 419 eligible households joined POENB in 2019, our Association would be able to fund the estimated \$100,000 Valley Grove Bulkhead Reconstruction Project.

In the second half of 2019 (July through December), we will shift our fundraising focus to a Valley Grove stewardship program, which may include capital elements such as bricks in the sidewalk or a "plank" in the wall, engraved with contributors' names. Details will be announced at a later time (**see editor's note at end of minutes*).

A member asked about the life expectancy of our bulkhead which Frank indicated as 0 days. Frank then explained how we are not waiting to act; we are in the midst of action. He went on to indicate there have also been some investigations regarding selling bonds to raise funds. A follow up inquiry was made by a member who asked whether a TOH beach pass could be included for our members. Frank indicated previous efforts were to purchase TOH passes & offer same to new members. This would not be benefiting us financially, which is why we're turning our explorations into buyer group offering/options.

A member brought to our attention that a few members of the Association are displeased with the revisions to the beach party rules that were enacted last year. Frank extended an invitation to any members with concerns to attend our POENB meetings and voice their concerns.

Nick Cavuoto responded that he has served as a board member for a number of years, and that the most recent revisions to the party rules had been in the

works for a while and were not significantly different changes from previous rules. Fire pit usage has never been allowed, other than as currently stipulated. Hours of use (for parties) have been changed in response to concerns by neighbors around Price's Bend regarding loud music and disruptive noise. No one has ever been turned down to hold a party as a result of the beach rules.

Julie mentioned that, following the adoption of the changes to the beach party rules, this Board commissioned an extensive survey to determine community sentiment towards the new rules, including party hours, fees, fire pit use and children's parties. Of the more than 70 survey responses we received, the overwhelming sentiment was one of support for the new beach party rules.

Bethany also referred to requested bonfires for POENB sponsored events which met the criteria and were approved right away. A member then recalled our commitment to do a look back to see how the rules played with the season's reality and to consider revisions as necessary. The board plans to do that over the winter. A suggestion was also made to re-publish the results of the survey.

Unfinished Business: (no update)

New Business: (no update)

We adjourned at 8:35. Our next meeting will be Friday March 1st at 7:30. Please join us.

** (Editor's Note: The easiest way to defray the cost of the bulkhead is by asking all eligible families on Eaton's Neck to become members and consistently showing current non-members the benefits of membership. Bottom line, increased membership increases the money we have available for essential beach projects like the wall, takes the burden off the folks who give back to their community year after year, and is an investment in our own home. When one considers how much money we throw away on disposable things every day, putting our dollars toward keeping our precious beaches safe from nature's fury seems a worthwhile investment).*

POENB
2019 Proposed Budget

	<u>2019</u>
In c o m e	
Advertising - Changing Tides	\$ 1,500
Beach Usage	1,500
Interest Income	10
Membership Dues	43,000
Merchandise Sales	3,000
Social Events	5,000
Valley Grove Bulkhead Fundraising	20,000
Total Income	<u><u>\$74,010</u></u>
Exp e n s e	
Beach Expense	\$ 19,000
Beach Improvements	5,000
Changing Tides - Printing	3,500
Insurance Expense	9,200
Meeting Expense	1,000
Merchandise Expense	2,000
Office Supplies	275
Postage, Delivery & Bank Fees	435
Professional Fees	1,000
Social Expenses	4,000
Utilities	1,100
Valley Grove Bulkhead Fundraising	1,000
Valley Grove Bulkhead Project	6,500
Total Expense	<u><u>\$ 54,010</u></u>
Net Income / (Loss)	<u><u>\$20,000</u></u>