

### **The Severn River Association, Inc.**

The meeting was **called to order** at 2:09 PM by President Lee Meadows. All Officers and Board Members were present (Maureen Burt & Kurt Riegel arrived late, during the Belvoir Farms Fundraiser discussion).

The (Draft 2) **Minutes** from the 4-9-2015 Board meeting were Approved (John moved, Charlotte seconded) with three corrections: Lisa was present, “SanTec” should be “Stantec” in the first paragraph of page 3, and the third line of the penultimate paragraph of the **SRA Communications Strategy Report** on page 4 should say 300,000 new arrivals per year, not 150,000.

#### **Election of Officers**

Lynne moved to elect the following slate which was presented by the: Nominating Committee at the April Board meeting:

President: **Lynne Rockenbauch**

Vice President: **Rusty Gowland**

Secretary: **Bob vom Saal** (for a second term)

Treasurer: **Lee Meadows**

The slate was elected unanimously and took office immediately. Since Officers cannot be directors, Rusty Gowland had resigned his Directorship and been replaced by Dr. Andrew Muller at the Annual Membership Meeting 6/16. Lee and Lynne have been working since April to provide a smooth transition.

Lynne moved to add Lee’s name to the bank signature cards so he can carry out the duties of his office. This motion was also approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer’s Report – Lee Meadows**

Lee reported that dues paid to date include 49 Associations, 6 Organizations (including 3 garden clubs, Severn Sailing Association, and the Unitarian Universalist Church), 5 Companies and 58 Individuals. He plans to send out a reminder mailing. Our current bank balances are approximately \$32,000 in checking and \$45,000 in Savings, of which about \$2,713 is Restricted (\$650 Legal Defense Fund, \$291 Herald Harbor Stormwater Project, \$1,772 Winchester Stormwater project)

#### **Annual Meeting Review**

The Draft2 Annual Meeting minutes were approved with two corrections: the 7/21 Educational Meeting will be at Union Jack’s, and Given should be given in the first sentence of the paragraph explaining the **Green Heron Award**.

Lee noted that the venue (Union Jack’s) had the advantages of low cost and easy organization since each guest paid for their own dinner. 49 West is similar but only has 20 parking spots Tom said that Union Jack’s acoustics were bad, and the wire to the lectern was distracting. John suggested Woods or DNR as other possible venues for regular meetings. Lisa suggested Jonas Green Park, which would be good for paddle – in, but is outdoor so weather can be a problem.

There were many new people at the SRA Annual meeting 6/16. We need to follow up and recruit them as volunteers. Lee tries to add them to our database, but is behind now. Maureen suggested we should get burgee stickers for publicity.

#### **Fund Raiser (Belvoir tour) Update – Lee Meadows**

We have arranged three guided tours of Belvoir, a 1680 Arboretum and the estate where Francis Scott Key spent his boyhood summers on 6/20, at \$20ea. Tours will include the slave quarters, grounds, and the state champion Copper Beech tree. 150 guests have registered, and we have 8 sponsors at \$200-300 each. 30 volunteers will help, including Maureen, Dan, Charlotte, Tom, John (sign), and Kurt. John is making the sign, Kurt designed the brochure, Dan is handling computer reservations. Charlotte will do hat and map sales. 3 or 4 of the reservations are from out of state. AACo has provided cones, as there is some concern about left turns. Ticks are a concern – we will need a first-aid kit. There is no handicapped access.

The tour is fast - 1hr is really marginal. We could do it again next year - possibly touring the Phillips estate. John and Lee can’t be in charge next year – it was too much work. We project a net profit of about \$3,000 so far. We still have lots to do before Sat - name tags, &c. Betsy will do a talk on invasive species.

#### **Educational Meetings Update – John Wright**

Approved Board Minutes – June 18, 2015 2:00 – 4:30 rooms 217-219 Calvary Methodist Church, Annapolis

July 21st – Oysters in the Severn – Are they making a difference? Presentation by Dr. Ken Paynter, Professor University of Maryland. Location to be determined.

August – we do not have a meeting

September will be at DNR but we don't yet have a speaker. We invited a speaker from Exelon on how they are scrubbing and cleaning our environment. Lawn fertilizers is another possible topic. Lisa suggested Scott Hymes on living shorelines or lawn fertilizers. Dan has a contact at Brandon Shores. 80% of coal emissions come down to earth within 30 miles of the source. They are considering converting to Natural Gas. Charlotte noted that planes are also a pollution source. Lisa agreed, noting that GSPC has a committee studying this issue. Charlotte noted that MDE is doing a study on PCBs and needs 2 more groups for a joint mtg. Some fish in the Severn River had PCBs, but they may have come from elsewhere.

October – lawn fertilizers – How your choice helps our rivers.

November - "Can we afford to fix the bay?" Speaker invited - Dan Nees Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland, College Park.

There will be a 6/25 meeting at 6:30 at the Pip Moyer Center featuring Aldermen Jared Lipman and Sheila Finlayson, who are sponsoring competing Forest Conservation bills, and the city attorney. Alderman Finlayson's bill is more developer-friendly; the Lipman bill has a longer appeals process - Final approval may be by the court of appeals. Finlayson's bill also allows clearcutting during the appeals. Crystal Spring is in Finlayson's district, and she is also working to get the development on Aris T. Allen Boulevard to have direct access. Lipman's bill also requires replanting within Annapolis. Alderman Lipman has asked us to help get city residents to write letters to their aldermen supporting his bill. Some member communities may help. We may need a second meeting if things change after this. 12 other developments on Forest Drive are also impacted. Annapolis' costs for this development may well exceed its income +fees. Tom noted that Baltimore City gave too many tax credits to developers who agreed to pay a Fee in Lieu of Taxes, which reduces the tax base. David Prosten's recent article in the Capital was an excellent description of all that is wrong.

### **Oyster Program Update – Lee Meadows**

We were pleased with this year's effort – there were fewer participants but more oysters. Dick Spencer is experimenting with 80 cages hanging without shaking. Bob Whitcomb said that many of the oysters were silt-covered. Kurt reported that his grew fur in the last 2 weeks. All were planted on our reef on 6/6.

The new floats work well. We lost 2 regular cages when the river froze – we are keeping them and they may recover. Maureen asked where to return empty cages? There is no storage place yet, so it is best to leave them at the dock but above water. You can also set them on the bottom. You can use a plastic tub to pick up new spat. Bob intends to continue to lead this program, but will be out of town 6 months of each year. Stephen Heller is now helping – he is younger & energetic. Bob also sent Charlotte contact information for a boy scout who would like to help.

### **Headwaters SHA Coalition Update – Charlotte Lubbert**

The Coalition has not yet met, and will contact AACo to set up a progress meeting. The SHA has started on the Benfield Blowout remediation, a \$615,000 project. MDE said Monday that the meeting about the Kyle Point project was cancelled because the owner withdrew his request for the project. He was going to build 11 berms 50' out into the River. He had originally asked for and received a permit for a living shoreline, then tried to expand the scope but his neighbors objected.

### **River Rats Update – Tom Guay**

All the wood is off the boat and in his basement. It has 1 coat of SeaTol, and needs a 2<sup>nd</sup> coat. Smith Marine gave us a free drydock slot for a month. He only plans to paint the bottom now, not the inside. He hopes to finish next week. Motors are not yet functional. We have a 10hp Mercury 4stroke, and an old 24HP 2 cycle outboard. We need a dock – our mooring disappeared 3 weeks ago. A neighbor has offered to donate her pier so we are OK for now. He will contact AACo inspectors once the boat is operational. Ken Hatch will help paint the bottom. Mark will provide a rescue boat to accompany us from Smith's to the pier. Rick Smith (Smith's Marina) will probably help if asked. The wood is sound – a few rotted spots have been glassed over. He would like to have the SRA Oyster sign. He hopes to finish in June. There is no budget for flares, fire extinguisher, etc. Charlotte has another boat that floated up on her property – it looks like a good fiberglass hull.

### **Communications Update – Tom Guay**

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Pat Ferguson is no longer the environmental reporter for the Capital – the new reporter wants to attend our 6/25 meeting about Forest Preservation. Kurt sent an email blast for the Belvoir fund raiser and for the Forest Conservation Act meeting. Pictures from the Annual Meeting are posted on the website and our FaceBook page.

Tom was surprised and pleased to receive a Green Heron award. Nice to know his efforts are appreciated.

### New Business

Charlotte requested that we encourage members to please patronize the Belvoir fundraiser sponsors. The Hideaway is now a good restaurant.

Please send Kurt Andrew Muller's 6/16 presentation to post on the website.

Lynne said we need committees to lead our various projects. Tom asked if he should send an email blast calling for volunteers, and Lynne requested that he do so.

We need a clearer definition of a "Community Member". Does that category include Churches? Garden Clubs? Conservancies? What should go on letterhead? The consensus was that we should use "Member Organizations" on the letterhead.

Diana Muller can now speak out against Crystal Spring now that she's no longer the South Riverkeeper.

### Correspondence

We received a check for \$1703 from the Whitehall-Meredith Civic Association. They are liquidating. The Association dissolved 6 years ago, and the liquidation is now final. Maureen will write a thank-you letter.

The Growth-Action Network of AACo wants us to join as a member. Ann Fligsten is their Executive Director. They monitor development, zoning, and related legislation. Membership is \$50/yr basic, \$200 includes some consultation, \$500 lists us on their website. Lee moved to become a Basic Member, Charlotte seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lisa advised that they are breaking ground on the Hillbottom Beach restoration next week. They will use all sandy hill stabilization plants to replace the retaining wall with a living wall. It will showcase various native plants.

Lee reported that Ben Oaks, Herald Harbor and Round Bay got AACo grants for rainwater control projects. Herald Harbor's project is fixing the Bonaparte problem. Grants were awarded based on TMDL reduction per dollar. Betsy Love got a grant for a 22 acre Back Creek project – they are getting permits now. The Spa Creek Conservancy got a \$55,000 grant to remediate Hawkins Cove, based on a design grant from the SRA. 2 more SRA design grants are in process. Maureen will be applying soon for another SRA grant for a new project.

Maureen reported that the SHA property at the bottom of Route 2 North collects trash and needs a cleanup. Lee suggested she call the SHA. It also looks like the beach north of Severn Inn could use a living shoreline – she may work with the Severn Inn to apply for a grant to create one. The Navy says this area has too much boat traffic, so they must harden their shoreline. They may be a source of advice. It needs a wave dispersal structure. Betsy suggested they can still do a living shoreline but add rocks to dampen waves. Mark said the USNA can declare a no-wake zone, and suggested requesting them to do so.

Charlotte reported that the garden center on Crownsville Road sells biologs with holes for stakes, at reasonable prices. It is behind Kent Automotive, by the VFW post.

Lee reported that Michelle Corcadel is putting together a proposal for a community sewage hookup to replace septic systems for Palisades, Herald Harbor & Arden. The hookups will be to either the public sewer or a regional plant.

**Scheduling Meetings:** The next Board meeting will be on 9/24 at 2:00-4:30 at the usual location

**Meeting was Adjourned** at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted

*Bob vom Saal*

Bob vom Saal, Secretary