

HAPOC Board of Governors Meeting

Sunday, September 1, 2024

Meeting held at the Beach Club and called to order at 10:05 am ET

Present: Paddy Richards, Jeffrey Jacobs, George Dotzel, Johan Poulsen
Nathalie McGregor

The Board discussed the following issues and decided:

1) Tenants in the dunes

There is a tent in the dunes noticeable from the road, clothes spread on the fence, and fresh shoe prints in the sand.

Johan Poulsen and George Dotzel approached the young man who lives in the tent and asked him to leave. He promised to leave in one day.

Johan Poulsen will follow up on this and make sure that the tenant in the dunes has left.

Rehoboth is removing tents in several places and HAPOC will do the same.

If needed, HAPOC will invite State Police and/or Delaware State Park Rangers to determine who is responsible for dealing with the homeless on Block W. At the request of HAPOC, Town Security will make a call to State Police requesting their assistance.

There is no sense to repair the broken fence before the tents are completely gone.

HAPOC will advise tenants in the dunes via delivery of pamphlets that the Community Resource Center on Oyster Shell Road can help them with food, showers, and access to air-conditioned space during the daytime. They do not provide overnight accommodations.

2) Archway to Block W dedicated to Charles Mills

Pierce Mills sent a letter asking the Town of Henlopen Acres to restore the sign (not the Arch itself) dedicated to his grandfather Charles Mills mounted on the Arch over the Rolling Road entrance to Block W. The town initially installed the sign, but the Arch is located on Block W and HAPOC will take the responsibility to clean and restore the sign.

David Richards volunteered to help with the sign. The sign was removed for restoration on September 6, 2024.

Paddy Richards will inform the Mayor about the decision.

3) Dogs on the beach

Beach ambassadors have reported that non-resident dog owners are coming from the Pine Reach entrance and from Deauville Beach through State property below the water line.

There were occasions when dog poop was not picked-up, despite there being poop bags and a sign at the entrances to Block W.

4) Beach ambassadors' reflection on the season

Wildlife: it is very important to preserve wildlife in the dunes. HAPOC will add a section about wildlife on their website and will invite members to participate in the Best Picture of Wildlife (including birds) and award prizes. Pictures will be published on the website.

Umbrellas: Lynam sets up umbrellas for HAPOC members that are taken over by renters. It was suggested to create a Form (and publish it on the HAPOC website) to record which renters take umbrellas and on what day.

5) Beach preservation

Jeffrey Jacobs will meet September 2nd with Scott Provinse – board member and beach liaison at the HABC – to discuss adding dune fencing along the crest of the dune running all the way to the Beach Club from Block W and the possibility of splitting the mobilization and demobilization cost of repairs to each organization's dune fencing. After that meeting Jeffrey Jacobs will contact the fence repair company, EE Landscaping.

SE corner of Block W is completely covered with sand and needs additional fencing to protect the dunes. Fences should be installed with the same parameters, but higher to help trap sand.

Fences should be repaired late winter or early spring.

Invitation for grass planting will be announced for the HAPOC volunteers on our website after the fence is repaired.

Dune Clean up – May 25, 2025, at 10 am – website will have the details.

6) How did the summer go?

This summer was quieter than the previous one. No wild underage parties were recorded.

The Beach ambassador's presence worked.

Thank you to Johan Poulsen for patrolling Block W in after dark hours.

Bonfires were well recorded and under control, except for one accident that happened with a new HA owner. Thank you to George Dotzel for leading the effort.

Cameras installed on Block W have memory cards and can be checked for the prior 72 hours of activity.

By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am ET