

The SHPOA

Beach Buzz

Keeping Members Informed About Stone Harbor



June 2024

President's Message

- Rich Fuchs, President



Saturday, June 15th turned out to be a great day for the first of two SHPOA membership meetings in 2024. The Harbor Theater again provided us with use of the theater at no cost and IDE Insurance generously sponsored the lovely refreshments. Many thanks again to both organizations for their support.



Those who turned out for the meeting were treated to an informative presentation on the Stone Harbor School by Suzanne Walters, School Board President, Kathleen Fox, Superintendent of the School District, and Dr Renee Murtaugh, Principal. They enlightened the participants

regarding the school programs, finances, and comparison with other similar school districts. The

presentation was in response to many questions from members over the years about the school and we thank them for their time and their candor. The presentation was very well received; I have had several positive comments from those who attended and an observation that this information should be more widely circulated throughout the community.

Our Sustainability Committee discussed the current situation regarding flood management and the work of



the borough's Flood Management Committee, on which some of our Trustees sit. In addition, Justine Herzog from the Sustainability Committee gave a presentation to answer the question, "what is a stormwater utility and why should Stone Harbor Council evaluate whether this is something to be pursued". We believe this discussion to be consistent with our mission to educate and inform members about issues facing the



Borough and in response to questions from members as to the reasons for the allocation of funds in the 2024 Borough budget to study a stormwater utility. We have indicated our support for evaluating the potential for this structure to finance the significant investments that will be necessary to manage stormwater in the coming years. This is an idea which was first surfaced over 5 years ago by a former SHPOA Trustee, Wally Bishop. Wally has significant experience in water utilities and has seen this structure in action elsewhere in the US. Not everyone may agree with the concept but the fundamental issue remains - we have a growing flooding challenge in Stone Harbor due to heavier storms and

rising sea levels, which will require us to invest in our stormwater system as a component of the flood management plan. Whatever your perspective, take the time to engage in the issue and participate in the debate as the study progresses. You can be sure that SHPOA will remain engaged as the study progresses and will continue to communicate with our members on this topic.

The second SHPOA Harbor Hustle was run on Sunday, June 23rd. We had over 350 registrations and a strong turnout for the race, which included a timed 5k run, a 1 mile run, and a 1 mile walk. As previously communicated, the net proceeds from the event will be donated to two worthwhile organizations, the American Legion Post 331 in Stone Harbor and the Helen L Diller Vacation Home for Blind Children. Representatives of both organizations joined us at the membership meeting to discuss their work. We haven't established the final tally yet, but based on the turnout and the enthusiasm generated by the event I am confident we will have a donation to both organizations that should make everyone proud. Thank you to our sponsors, Seashore Ace, Jay's on Third, Quahog's, TS Air Sciences, and Global Pursuit, along with race organizer Second Capital Running for this great event, to the trustees who volunteered to arrive at 6am on a Sunday, and to the participants who made the event a success. Stay tuned for the next event to be held on Sunday, September 1st.



We continue to provide the perspectives of the members to the Borough, based on feedback you provide

to us. Please keep your views and opinions coming. Comments can be sent to us via the SHPOA contact mailbox at Contact@StoneHarborPOA.org. We read all emails received and endeavor to respond. In addition, the viewpoints expressed are passed to our Council Liaison, Tim Carney.

We will remain your voice in Stone Harbor!

Sustainability Committee Update

- Susan Barrett, Trustee and Chair, Sustainability Committee



The Sustainability Committee has been working on several projects this year, including the following:

1. Bay Dredging Permit – Our Committee will encourage the Borough to apply for a 10-year dredging permit, which would result in a maintenance approach to this issue. Currently, we rely on an all or nothing system, which means that certain areas (particularly at the mouths of the basins) are effectively allowed to become seriously compromised while waiting for the entire channel to be dredged. Periodic maintenance dredging could focus on problem areas in a timely manner. We have consulted with the Borough of Avalon for advice in this regard, as they were recently awarded the permit.
2. Native Planting – SHPOA will be converting the Borough center island at 109th Street to native flowering plants and shrubs. We are working with the Garden Club of Stone Harbor and the Public Works Department to complete this project, hopefully in the fall season. Additionally, we will be filling a few of the garden planters around town with native blooms next year. Our goal is to raise awareness about the benefits and beauty of utilizing endemic flora, including attracting pollinators and requiring less water.
3. We remain focused on flood mitigation/storm water management/water conservation. Our Committee led a presentation for Members at the June meeting covering the current thinking on flood mitigation strategy, which is long-term in nature. Additionally, we talked about the purpose of a Storm Water Utility, i.e., what it is, how it would function, etc. The Borough has indicated that it will embark upon a Storm Water Feasibility Study, and we felt it prudent to communicate about this very important topic early on in the process.
4. Beach preservation. We recently submitted an OPRA request to the Borough of Stone Harbor (which was approved) for the beach elevation data collected before and after the hydraulic fill in 2023. We are interested in comparing those data to similar data obtained by the Borough from the Coastal Research Center on a bi-annual basis. Our intention is to interpolate and cross compare with the CRC data.
5. We installed three succinctly informative signs along 3rd Avenue between 120th and 123rd Streets regarding the environmental importance of this area. This was a SHPOA Project of the Year.

Historical Stone Harbor

- Courtesy of Stone Harbor Museum



Each month we bring you a memory from the past, courtesy of the Stone Harbor Museum.



This circa 1920s aerial view looking westward from over the ocean reveals essentially the emerging business district of Stone Harbor. I have taken the liberty to assist the viewer/reader by inserting some identifying labels for reference purposes. Notably, this classic photo shows us many interesting features including the famous mile and a quarter long boardwalk along the beach as well as 96th Street and the bridge and entryway over the Great Channel into town from the mainland. One of the most obvious aspects of this photo is the abundant amount of undeveloped parcels of land in what was becoming the center area of the town. Perhaps a bit challenging, you might search for and identify some specific buildings and other features that you recognize. For example, might you be able to locate the Volunteer Fire Station or the Shelter Haven Hotel? What about Troxel's variety store on 96th Street, the public tennis courts or the public school? And how about the iconic residence known as The Pebbles, Diller's Store next door to the Colonial Hotel or perhaps the town water pumping station and original stand pipe? Remember, this is the way Stone Harbor looked when the incorporated borough was not yet even 10 years old!

The Museum is at 9410 2nd Avenue and can be found online at www.stoneharbormuseum.org. Please be sure to see Harlan's History which can be found at <https://www.stoneharbormuseum.org/harlans-history/> and also consider donating to the Stone Harbor Museum at <https://stoneharbormuseum.org/donations/>.

Contemporary Stone Harbor

- Scott Jarden, Trustee; Member, Communications & Technology Committee; Lead, Social Media



Each month we bring you a recent photo of interest from around Stone Harbor.





Hard to believe it is June 26th and the beach is empty, even in the surf; enjoy it before it gets crowded!

Media Buzz

This article in the Cape May County Herald reported on SHPOA's recent letter to the Stone Harbor Mayor, Council, and Administration on the recently passed budget for 2024. For copyright reasons, we are only reproducing the introductory part of the article. The full article can be accessed at <https://capemaycountyherald.com/article/property-owners-group-voices-worries-on-borough-debt-financial-planning/> with a subscription (see section titled SHPOA member benefit below).

CAPE MAY COUNTY
HERALD

News Towns Community DoTheShore / Lifestyle Opinion Obituaries

Property Owners Group Voices Worries on Borough Debt, Financial Planning

By Vince Conti





June 3, 2024

STONE HARBOR – The Stone Harbor Property Owners Association has once again asked the borough to develop a 10-year financial plan, and has voiced its concern over the borough's use of debt.

In a May 25 letter to the mayor and Borough Council, the property owners association presented commentary, criticism and analysis of the 2024 budget adopted on May 7.

The borough's budget process in 2024 was particularly chaotic, something not lost on the authors of the letter. The Borough Council twice amended the introduced budget, rescinded one of those amendments, added funds for raises for non-union personnel and then removed them, and increased the total estimated cost of the six-year capital program by more than \$10 million when compared to the introduced budget.

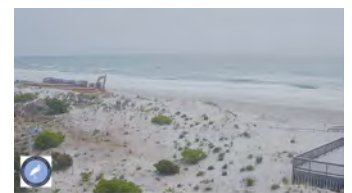
Member's Buzz

In this section we will periodically select some of your comments and perspectives to share with our broader membership. Please feel free to send them for consideration in future issues of The SHPOA Beach Buzz by writing to BeachBuzz@StoneHarborPOA.org.



SHPOA's Beach Cams and other local webcams

SHPOA's site with two beach cams and embedded weather, tide, and water temperature information can be found 24 x 7 at StoneHarborPOA.org/beachcams. There is a simple form that needs to be filled out once, after which you can bookmark the site and access the beach cams whenever you'd like.



Other local webcams of interest not being run by SHPOA include:

- [Stone Harbor Yacht Club Baycam](#)
- [Stone Harbor Fire Department's 96th Street Webcam](#)
- [Wetlands Institute Osprey Cam looking North](#)

If there are other local webcams that you are aware of and recommend for inclusion on this list, please contact us at Contact@StoneHarborPOA.org.

Calendar of Events

Please go to our website to view our Events Calendar



at <https://www.stoneharborpoa.org/#calendar>, which we will continue to update. If you know of an event that is not listed there, please let us know!



A SHPOA Membership Benefit



We are thrilled to announce a SHPOA member benefit that supports our mission of informing you of what's happening in and around town. Our friends at the Cape May County Herald are offering SHPOA members only an exclusive discount for Herald subscriptions -- **25% OFF with code "SHPOA"** -- and they are also providing your association advertising space in print and online for us to promote the association and the initiatives important to our members. We hope you will consider supporting the Herald and the local journalism which got its start right here on Seven Mile Island. Click here to see recent [coverage of Stone Harbor](#). To subscribe and use the discount, please click on <https://capemaycountyherald.com/subscribe/> and use promo code "SHPOA" at checkout to claim your 25% discount. Only valid for new subscribers.

The Beach Buzz editorial team: Homi Kapadia, Scott Jarden, Cynthia Burton, Janis Oeschger, Ted Kestner, Jay Blackman, and Heidi Yacker.
