

Minutes from the January 31, 2023 GRHBA Meeting:

Attendees: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Chesapeake Charters), Jim Rich (Huntingfield, Java, Sweet Cheeks) Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Katie Wright (E&TD), Sandy Scott (Hickory Stick), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Eve Heath (RH American Legion), Joe Musike (Experience Sail), Leslie Sea (WCTR), Mayor Dawn Jacobs (Town of Rock Hall), Kim Porter & Susan Barnhardt (Peoples Bank), Rick Carter (Delmarva Craft), Steve Leonard (American RH Service Center), Steve Atkinson (ShoretobeFun.com), Casey Carroll (Bayside Market), Debra Woodruff Capper (Lions & Mainstay), Kelly Crouse (Selkie Books), Chris Golder (Watermans), Sarah Dean (Kent County Chamber of Commerce), Todd Steffes (RHYC). After a brief fire drill Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:07am. Attendees introduced themselves.

GRHBA Report:

- Financials: Jim reviewed the P&L for 2022, showing Income of \$42,108.66, expenses of \$29,455.35 and Net Income of \$12,653.31. The map ads and P&W merchandise are our primary sources of revenue.
- The 2023 Maps are available. Cartons of 450 maps are available at the town office. Bundles of 50 can be picked up from the porch at Rock Hall Properties at 5820 Main Street or at the town office.
- Visitors Center: Deborah Reese purchased a remote lock and signs. These will be installed by spring.
- The GRHBA Board met January 10. There are 3 openings on our Board. Meetings are 3 times/year. Anyone interested in serving on the board please contact Suzanne. Next board meeting will be in April.
- GRHBA plans to have 3 mixers in 2023: spring, summer, holiday. Business interested in hosting, let us know.

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): The Holiday Market went well. Plans are to have this event again in 2023. MSRH has 2 DHCD grants in progress: \$10,000 MIP Grant will be used for a beautification project targeting a pocket park at Main St & Rock Hall Ave; \$25,000 Building Improvement Grant for businesses in MSRH district. Businesses can apply for up to \$10,000 for building improvements. MSRH businesses will receive details soon. MSRH Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00am at The Mainstay. Next meeting is 2/16. Planning for Pirates & Wenches 2023 has started. Volunteers are needed to continue this event.

Economic & Tourism Development: Katie reminded us to sign up for Tourism and Economic Development newsletters and check your listing in the Kent County Business Directory. Micro Ag Grant closes 1/31/23. Dawson is working on medical transportation services and with Rick Carter on the Shuttle.

Town of Rock Hall: Dawn Jacobs said water and sewer problems on Sharp Street could cost \$125,000. Feb. 8 is next Planning Commission Meeting where the new Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed. A review of the draft plan is scheduled for March. Cindy Genter attends the meetings on behalf of the GRHBA.

Member Events & Comments

- Lions Club needs members. They raise money to help vision impaired and dental needs of residents. Fundraisers are the Circus in May and Yard Sale.
- Mainstay reopens Feb. 8 with Open Mic Night. Concerts start Feb. 21 with a Mardi Gras event.
- American RH Service Center is installing a new solar canopy to power its operation and to provide cover for bus work. They are installing an EV charging station under the existing canopy. American is providing two EV buses to Kent County Public Schools. Steve also mentioned Fire Company rescue boat & ambulance projects
- Kent County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards event is Feb. 8, 11:30-1:30. BrewFest is April 15. Sponsorships are available.
- Chris Golder said Watermans is having deck work done and planning to reopen in April.
- Todd Steffes is Vice Commodore, and Steve Leonard is Rear Commodore of Rock Hall Yacht Club.
- Eve Heath is the new American Legion Commander. They will be having a TIPS class in Feb. Hall rentals available
- June 14 is WCTR's 60th anniversary. CONGRATULATIONS! Their Rock Hall studio opens spring, Fridays 2:30-4:30.
- Steve Atkinson reported the Chestertown Rotary's Spring Fling is 3/18 at Chester River Yacht & Country Club.
- Peoples Bank is working on new investment products. Details to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23am. The next meeting will be February 28th at the Fire House at 9:00am.
Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary