

Minutes from the July 25, 2023 GRHBA Meeting:

Attendees: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Chesapeake Charters), Jim Rich (Inn at Huntingfield, Java, Sweet Cheeks), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Shalyn Bouden (KC T&ED), Matt Mielnick (Mainstay), Kevin Hodge (Blue Heron Oyster House), Beth Dunn (MSRH), Carol Britten (Town of Rock Hall Website), Roni Thomas & Susan Barnhardt (PBKC), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Eve Heath (American Legion), Deborah Reese (Cinnamon by the Bay), Debra Woodruff-Capper (Lions), Steve Atkinson (ShoreToBeFun.com), Stephanie Chevalier (Chevalier Musique), TiAnna Alsup (Bay Escape), Kelly Crouse & Marta Kumer (Selkie Books), Leslie Sea (WCTR).

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:02. Attendees introduced themselves.

GRHBA Report:

- Financials & Budget: Jim Rich reported checking account balance was \$48,228.57.
- Welcome Susan Barnhardt new Board Member; A board meeting was held 7/17/23. Deborah Reese has done a good job improving the Visitors Center. A board member will attend monthly town meetings to report on GRHBA activities starting in August. Town Meeting is 2nd Thursday of the month.
- New businesses and Ribbon Cuttings: October Mixer planned at Blue Heron. Date TBD. Checking on Ribbon Cuttings at Hightide & Rock City.
- Cindy reported the Planning Commission **now expects a Public Hearing on the Comp Plan in October**. Cindy will send a link to the final draft when it is published. GRHBA members are encouraged to review and send comments in writing before the Public Hearing and to attend the public hearing.

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): Pirates & Wenches Weekend is August 11-13. **Volunteers are needed!** Check the Signup Genius on the P&W website. There will be a house decorating contest, judging on Saturday 8/12. A Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) flotilla will be on Sunday, 8/13. All decorated LSVs are invited to participate. Old Salt's unveiling was 6/22. Remaining grant money will be used for signage. Two 2023 Building Improvement Grants projects are completed; others are underway. The application for 2024 Building Improvement Grants has been submitted. FallFest planning meetings are underway. Meeting 7/25 at 5:00pm at Java Rock. Main Street Clean up day is scheduled for August 8. All are invited.

Tourism & Economic Development: Shalyn gave an overview of the Shuttle statistics. Ridership is up significantly (+200%) over 2022. Jim Rich said five Vermont Bike Tours are scheduled in Rock Hall for 5 weeks starting mid-September through mid-October. Participants will stay at Huntingfield & tour Kent County for 3 days.

Town of Rock Hall: Carol Britten asked that we send her flyers for events in jpeg format. Check your business listing info.

Member Events & Comments

- Feedback on 4th of July: Busier and more people than ever! Visitors were rude.
- Lions Club: P&W Beach Party will have music, food, drinks & fun. Kids Treasure Dig at 10:00. The Yard Sale is set for Sept. 15-16. Donations needed – bring to Main Street on Sept 14.
- Mainstay: 7/30 @ 6:30 is Blake Thompson Concert. Sept. 16 is Gala. Auction items needed. Birthday Potluck dinner on 8/18
- Deborah Reese said "Stuff"'s window is decorated for P&W including a Treasure Chest display. Donations needed for Lions Club treasure dig. The Visitors Center is being decorated for P&W. Deborah recommended a fan be installed and lights replaced.
- Selkie Books has an author speaker event on 7/30.
- WCTR: The summer studio is open in Rock Hall next to Harbor Shack on Fridays 2-4. Businesses should stop by.
- PBKC: Roni mentioned Peoples Bank has an 11 month CD with 3% interest rate.
- Stephanie Chevalier is coordinating PorchFest on Sept. 3, 1-5pm. Porches and help needed. There is a committee for Witches Weekend, Oct 27-29. Anyone interested in helping, contact Stephanie.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14. The next meeting will be August 29th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary