

## Minutes from the September 26, 2023 GRHBA Meeting:

Attendees: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Chesapeake Charters), Jim Rich (Inn at Huntingfield, Java, Sweet Cheeks), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Katie Wright (KC T&ED), Matt Mielnick (Mainstay), Kevin Hodge (Blue Heron Oyster House), Sandy Scott (Hickory Stick), Carol Britten (Town of Rock Hall Website), Sarah King (KCCC), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Beth Dunn (MSRH), Debra Woodruff-Capper (Lions), Leslie Sea (WCTR), Steve Leonard (American Service Center), Cathy Cessna (Non-Profit Consulting), Marta Kumer & Kelly Crouse (Selkie Books), Patti Williams (RHYC), Eve Heath (American Legion), Joe Musike (Experience Sail).

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:04. Attendees introduced themselves. August minutes were approved with the date of the Small Business Saturday corrected to November 25.

### GRHBA Report:

- Financials: P&L and Balance Sheet were distributed. Checking account balance is \$51,000.
- Visitors Center: Cindy reported a new fan was purchased and installed by Relay Mechanical. Will remain open.
- Ribbon Cuttings & Mixers: Hightide ribbon cutting was 9/16 & well attended. October Mixer at Blue Heron on 10/19, 4-6pm. Decoy shop to open in Village.
- Rock Hall Brochure: Cindy reviewed the schedule. Suggestions were made to add a QR Code, Map insert, new photo (Old Salt). Meeting attendees felt we should keep membership prices the same for 2024.
- Cindy reported the Planning Commission Public Hearing for the Comp Plan is October 18. Cindy suggested members review Chapter 6, Land Use. Significant changes include rezoning 50 acres behind Walgreens to mixed use commercial/residential with potentially up to 150 housing units. Planning Commission has said no Short Term Rentals, just affordable (not subsidized) housing. Area west of Hawthorne to be rezoned Resource Conservation due to environmental concerns of rising water levels.
- Shop Small Rock Hall aka Small Business Saturday is Saturday Nov. 25. Carriage rides are planned for Main Street. GRHBA will support the event with advertising.

**Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH):** Partnering with GRHBA for Shop Small Rock Hall promotion and activities on 11/25. 2024 DHCD Main Street Improvement grant received for business networking, advertising & promotion, and improving relationship with the town. Pirates & Wenches will have a Pirates' Parlay on October 24 to discuss the future of this event and new leadership needs. PorchFest was well attended and will continue as Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend events. Volunteers are needed for Kids Court at FallFest. Witches Weekend is Oct. 27-28. Friday events are at Haven Harbour South; Saturday 11-5 at the beach (photo at 11:30) and then on Main Street. 2024 Community Safety Grant being considered for improvements to the Village bathrooms to be coordinated with Haven Harbour.

**Tourism & Economic Development:** Katie distributed rack cards for Upper Shore Regional Council business mentoring. HotDesks is a co-working space in Chestertown available for short & long term uses. Contact Economic Development.

**Kent County Chamber of Commerce:** Map and directory updates are underway. Fall FunFest was cancelled due to weather. Strategic Plan is being updated. Send press releases & photos for publication. Press release help on website.

**Town of Rock Hall:** Carol Britten requested organizations send event & photos updates to [cbritten5616@gmail.com](mailto:cbritten5616@gmail.com). Event posters should be 8.5"x11" portrait orientation in jpg format.

### Member Events & Comments

- Lions Club: Yard Sale was successful. Help needed for P&W Beach Party. Next event is Christmas baskets.
- Selkie Books is a stop on Studio Tour. Many wonderful events planned for this fall. Check website & FaceBook.
- Eve Heath (Legion) said \$23,000 was distributed among community groups. Halloween party with Witches & live band is 10/28. 11/11 is Veterans Day dinner.
- WCTR: Rock Hall Studio is open Fridays, 2-4pm through October next to Harbor Shack. Members should stop in.
- Mainstay: Gala was well attended. Great event!

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35. The next meeting will be October 31st at the Fire House at 9:00am.  
Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary