

RUMSEY ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2017

The RIRA meeting was held at Parker's Restaurant in White Marsh.

Opener: Favorite Vacation

Thanks to Ron for the Christmas Party.

Our Board

Officers

President Gordon Guay , Vice President Michael Donoghue, Treasurer Sharon Pry, Secretary Christine Guay

Board of Directors

Ralph Comegna, Dion Guthrie, Ron Parker, Judy Gonzalez and Bev Kott

What does RIRA stand for....

Response from the board members was that we will focus on RIRA as a social club and Rumsey Island in particular, but we also will be a venue if people would like to present information about any issue relating to the town/county, that is welcome.

Upcoming Events

General meetings alternate between Wed and Thurs.

Feb 5th, Superbowl breakfast at Baldwins

Once monthly, game night. At the Guay's until further notice. (Last Friday of every month)

First Tuesday of each month, social at 7PM. First Social is at Parker's on 2/7

Thank You

Vincent La Padula – Morgan's fundraiser was Dec 22nd. Joppa-Magnolia donated the hall. Morgan is doing well, Vincent is donating in the near future.

Carnival

Diana Guthrie. Moved to April 13th – 22nd, will take the 17th and 18th off. Need volunteers please. Contact Diana Guthrie 410-679-9399 or visit www.edgewoodjoppatowneparade.org

It was decided that we will donate \$500 to Edgewood and Joppatowne to buy bracelets. Ralph will coordinate. Also discussed possibility of a Float for 2018 Independence Day Parade.

Gunpowder and Bird River Fish Kill

Ralph read Letter from the Gunpowder Riverkeeper: January 14, 2017 Baltimore Sun

The Baltimore Sun's recent coverage regarding the Gunpowder and Bird Rivers fish kill must not stand. The reported ten thousand fish killed estimate is not supported by both my observations and by many waterfront property owners who have conducted dock surveys in Baltimore and Harford Counties. Eight days after the initial event there were more dead yellow perch than leaves on the bottom of Foster Branch in Harford County during low tide.

Furthermore, the public deserves better than a statement from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) that, "They do not believe pollution was a factor in the fish kill." Thus far, MDE has indicated high salinity and warm temperatures as contributing factors to the fish kill. The tidal Gunpowder and Bird Rivers are waterways impaired by excessive nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution.

Riverkeeper asserts that the algae that led to the fish kill is a symptom of these various factors stemming from an unbalanced ecosystem and unregulated point sources. A quick search on the EPA's ECHO database reveals several possible sources of upstream nitrogen pollution including two wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). One WWTP has "unknown" compliance of its Clean Water Act pollution discharge permit and the other WWTP has had periodic nitrogen pollution violations over the past three years.

Compounding this are reports on MDE's Reported Sewer Overflow Database of frequent sanitary sewer infrastructure failures in Baltimore and Harford counties typified by "vandalized" manhole covers, blocked drains, and broken bypass pipes, including a 950,000-gallon sewage overflow at a pumping station in the Gunpowder watershed in the past year. Additionally, there is an industrial facility impacting the Gunpowder River that has been discharging nitrogen by as much as 3,5000% over its CWA permit limits since 2015.

For the benefit of all Maryland citizens that have an interest in clean Gunpowder and Bird River waters and healthy ecosystems, Gunpowder Riverkeeper urges MDE and the Sun to investigate upstream pollution sources that may have contributed to the algae that caused this fish kill. Failing to investigate these upstream pollution sources allows water quality in rivers feeding into the imperiled Chesapeake Bay to worsen and only serves to fatten industry while merely feeding the seagulls.

Suggestions for homeowners: Clean up animal waste, don't fertilize the lawn, plant rain gardens, use tanks to collect water, keep sewer and common areas free of litter.

Ralph will call about water testing and the cost.

Charlie Bayne used to bring water samples to University of Maryland.

Fish kill went up to Middle River with an estimate up to 200,000 fish.

Robert Kennedy started the river keepers, they are a non-profit organization that helps protect our rivers, \$25 to join if anyone is interested. www.gunpowderriverkeeper.org We will try to get Harford County Dept of Public Works 2/23 @ Joppatowne library to discuss the sewer treatment plant. Dredging for the neighborhood is being planned. Permit can be found at www.baylandinc.com

Christine Guay, Secretary
Rumsey Island Residents Association

Treasurer's Report Dec 5, 2016 - January 19, 2017

Beginning Balance	\$6,928.54
Membership Dues	1,452.48
Holiday Party	690.00
Total Deposits	\$2,142.48
Website	195.00
PO Box	130.00
Holiday Decoration Prizes	80.00
Holiday Party	1,701.00
Total Checks Written	-\$2,106.00
Ending Balance	\$6,965.02