

RUMSEY ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

RIRA June 20, 2018

The June meeting of RIRA was held at Parker's restaurant on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. It started with the ice cream social, which was very good and enjoyed by all! Thanks to all who contributed.

The business meeting was called to order at 7:20pm and our speaker for the evening who was introduced by Barbara C., was Kerry Wixtred, a wildlife education and outreach specialist from DNR. She spoke to us for the next hour about insects, snakes, and small mammals in Maryland.

Highlights of the talk were: there are over 400 species of bees, wasps, and hornets in Maryland. They are an important food source for birds, and important pollinators. Most are solitary nesters (are not in colonies). Social bees are more venomous.

There are 27 species of snakes in Maryland. Only two are venomous - copperheads and rattlesnakes (these are mostly in Western Maryland). Most snakes eat rodents, which not only control that population, but also the tick population.

There are 10 species of bats in Maryland, but like 20 other states, the bats are slowly disappearing due to white nose syndrome, a disease that has threatened the bat population except for the cave bat. Bats eat insects, so their population is important to the natural balance. A standing dead tree is an ideal habitat for bats, so these trees should be left in place when possible.

Opossums are usually shy creatures unless cornered or feel that their young are threatened. They do not carry lime disease, are immune to snake venom, and rarely catch rabies.

Raccoons are very smart animals and are a top carrier of rabies.

Foxes have migrated here from the northwest. We have both grey and red foxes. They are also shy creatures.

Coyotes have been here since 1972. They are not considered a treat to people, but they will eat small pets.

Black bears are shy animals also, and usually will only be aggressive if their young are threatened. They do not usually see people as a threat, but they do see dogs as a threat to them. So, when walking in areas where there could be black bears, please keep your dog on a leash. There are over 2,000 black bears in Maryland.

Spiders: There are two deadly species of spiders in Maryland and they are both black widows. The brown recluse is not in Maryland.

Our speaker did a really nice job. it was a very interesting presentation.

Russell started the business meeting at 8:20pm. He read the treasurer's report. We have a balance of \$5,532.

The crab feast will be held on Sept 29th -more info to follow.

The annual Christmas party will be held at Parker's on Dec 19th.

Gordie has ordered the supplies for testing the water and that will be done this week.

Dion announced that the Independence Day Parade will be held on July 1, starting at 6pm. The parade will travel down Joppa Farm Road. 3 judges are needed for the parade. If you are interested, please contact Dion. After the parade, there will be live music in Mariner's Point Park. It should be fun. Please join the festivities.

Dredging - the next part of this will be done from the condos near the park to the large drain in the channel.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with plantings in the neighborhood. And thanks to Barb R. for getting permits to plant trees along shore drive.

Thanks again to Ralph for heading up the project to paint signs on the storm drains so our neighborhood is reminded not to dump anything there, as it goes into the Bay.

Russ said that we will revisit the decision to have meetings on the third Wednesday, as this may not be good for many of those who attend.

Thanks again, as always, to Ron Parker for the use of the restaurant for our meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Submitted by **Judy Gonzalez** Secretary
Rumsey Island Residents Association

Treasurer's Report: May 17, 2018 - June 20, 2018

Beginning Balance	\$5,789.31
50/50 raffle (May)	\$78.00
Dues Collected	\$63.00
Total Credits	\$141.00
PayPal fee	\$1.26
Carnival Tickets	\$300.00
Paint for storm drains	\$96.38
Total Debits	\$397.64
Ending Balance	\$5,532.67