

**ANNUAL FENWICK RESIDENTS MEETING
ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA
MAY 29, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 9:04 a.m.

The Warden asked for a moment of silence for residents and past residents of the Borough who have died since May, 2019:

Julia Ann Walton	Mary Reigeluth Fisher
Honey Adams	Ward Hart
Ted Van Itallie	Olivia Christensen
Cynthia Rehm	Charles Robertson
William Wightman	Jessica Gay
George Longtin	Jane Wright
Bruce Arneill	Ralph Keeney
Jack Soper	Kevin Dubay

The Warden then announced the following births to Borough residents since May, 2019:

Harry Frelinghuysen	Georgia Haviland
Theodore Shrauner	Zebulon Gay
Cornelia Robertson	Sylvie Shea
Virginia Grace Thrower	Nora Williams
Margot Sandmann	Thomas Lafayette Keeney
Solomon Mendlinger	Theodore Savin
Monroe Savin	

The Warden announced new Borough residents:

Louis & Marla Esposito

The Warden announced “new old” residents:

Meg & Mike Reynolds
Hall & Connie Wilson
Maura Bulkeley
David & Linda Frankel

The Warden introduced Borough staff:

Superintendent Daryl Aresco
Zoning Enforcement Officer / Land Use Administrator Marilyn Ozols
General Manager Jeff Champion

On behalf of all residents of the Borough, the Warden thanked the entire Borough staff for their incredibly hard work, especially over the last 15 months. He added that the Borough is stronger for their leadership and dedication.

The Warden highlighted some moments from Borough history over the last 150 years and Peter Bulkeley noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of Fenwick's founding as a summer colony.

The following Burgesses were re-elected on May 3rd: Art Wright, Frank Keeney, Pam Christensen, Jonathan Gengras, and Ann Pulver. Duby McDowell was elected to fill the vacancy left by Julie LeBlanc, who is stepping down. Other election results include: Warden – Newt Brainard, Treasurer – Bob Gay, Tax Collector – Laurie Goldsmith, Clerk – Nancy Marikar.

The Warden gave updates regarding the following:

Borough Entrance: Project to improve the turning angle from Nibang Avenue to Maple Avenue and raise and rebuild the road will begin June 1st. The Warden asked residents to be patient during the next few weeks, as there will be some inconvenience in entering and exiting the Borough during that time. Landscaping work at the entrance will be completed in the fall.

Pier: Top layer will be removed, new concrete poured into the interior and a new top layer will be added. Work should be complete by the end of June.

Hammer Law: The Warden asked residents to review his recent email regarding the Hammer Law, specifically the days and times that commercial landscape services may be performed. He also reminded residents that commercial vehicles may not park on Borough roads and asked that they notify their contractors accordingly.

Short-Term Rentals: The 2019 zoning regulation regarding short-term rentals was challenged in court, and the final ruling is expected to render the regulation null and void, not on the content of the regulation but on a technical point regarding publishing of legal notice. As a result, the current regulation is unenforceable. The Planning and Zoning Commission will be addressing next steps. The Burgesses also have the option of enacting an ordinance regarding such rentals.

Dune Project: Re-routing of the creek and construction of the new culvert are complete. Please stay off the dune as the plantings should not be disturbed while taking root.

Golf Carts: Only licensed drivers are permitted to drive golf carts, whether on roads or the golf course. Residents are asked to make sure their children and grandchildren obey the law.

Fenwick Flags: Contact Bill or Pam Christensen if you would like to purchase a golf cart flag.

Volunteers: The Borough relies on volunteers for Boards, Commissions, Committees and Playclass. Residents are asked to help out however they can.

Budget: The Warden asked Treasurer Bob Gay to present the proposed 2021-2022 Budget. Gay reported that the Borough is in the best financial condition in its history. He stated that the Borough has a balanced budget, a surplus, and no tax increase. He explained that the strategy is to budget for a \$45,000 operating surplus which allows “wobble room” and provides for unexpected expenses. He pointed out the annual allocations for employee bonuses, future equipment purchases, and golf course expenses related to the golf course master plan. He stated that after the completion of the entrance project and the pier work, the Borough will have approximately \$850,000 in remaining funds. The Borough will retain \$350,000 in reserve, which is a reasonable amount for a municipality of its size, and the Burgesses will make a capital list for using the remainder of the funds. Two items that could be placed on the such a list are the east end dunes and the west end seashore. Gay said the time is now for these projects. He added that resurfacing Borough roads should also be placed on the list. A resident suggested that golf course irrigation also be placed on the capital list.

General Announcements: Beach clean up is today at 10:00 a.m. Meet at the tennis courts. Robert Boody announced that the first service of the summer season at St. Mary’s By The Sea will be Sunday, July 4th at 11:00 a.m. Charlie Robertson stated he was in favor of the nullification of the short-term rental zoning regulation, as it would allow the Borough to appropriately address the issue. He believes no appeal to the court ruling should be filed and that the Burgesses should pass an ordinance disallowing short-term rentals. He also noted that a new, outdoor restaurant has been proposed for Saybrook Point which could have a negative impact on the Borough. A group of North Cove residents are working together in opposition to the restaurant.

Frank Keeney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne M. Stanners