

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

The moon is full, raging winds are making LI Sound look like the ocean and record high tides have pushed the water up to the street. It must be January on Eaton's Neck.

I had planned on talking about the budget we just presented but, as you can see, Mother Nature doesn't care about budgets. Winter storms like we had mid-month remind us who really runs things out here. See that river? Four months ago, it cost us nearly \$3,000 to re-level the beach from similar damage.

We got lucky on this one, but as you review the budget please realize that the most important line item on it is the one that says "Membership." The main purpose of POENB is to maintain our beaches. As the photo above illustrates, extreme weather events are now the norm not the exception. We cannot handle them without your member dues, which are tiny compared to other beach organizations. I'm tired of hearing people say - "well I never use the beaches or go to POENB events". If you live here you benefit from them. The beaches provide peace of mind, better property values and a connection with nature. I'm asking every person reading this now to do the right thing and join this Spring.

Your board has been hard at work trying to trim expenses and add back funding for some social events (fingers crossed), beach improvements and storage upgrades. Please assist us by removing your watercraft immediately--all were supposed to be removed by December 1. We plan to hold our February meeting/budget vote in person at the firehouse. Please bring a mask and join us.

Ryan Cote, President





POENB 2022 Proposed Budget & 2021 Actual Budget

92	_		
Income	_	022 Budget	2021 Actual
Advertising - Changing Tides	\$	1,000.00	\$ 1,105.00
Beach Usage - Party Fees		1,500.00	1,500.00
Membership Dues		50,000.00	50,330.00
Merchandise		100.00	100.00
Watercraft Fees		900.00	500.00
4th of July Parade Donation		1,000.00	845.00
Social Income		500.00	≅.
Interest Income	-	10.00	4.57
Total Income	\$	55,010.00	\$ 54,384.57
- Louis and the			
Expense Beach Expenses			
Beach Clean-Up/Improvements	. ¢	2,000.00	\$ 2,345.62
Beach Improvements		7,000.00	\$ 2,950.00
			1000
Landscaping	50	6,000.00	5,845.00
Prices Bend		12,100.00	16,226.33
Valley Grove		500.00	4 27 266 25
Total Beach Expenses	\$	27,600.00	\$ 27,366.95
Bond Payback	\$	3,500.00	1,933.68
Changing Tides		4,300.00	3,773.16
Insurance Expense		10,400.00	9,974.23
Meeting Expense		500.00	96.67
Membership Expense		300.00	~
Monthly Bank Fees		360.00	390.00
4th of July Donation		1,500.00	2,000.00
PayPal Fees		350.00	387.29
PO Box & Postage		250.00	146.00
Professional Fees		6 = 5	900.00
Sales Tax		100.00	77.34
Savings Fund		2,000.00	-
Social Expenses		2,500.00	127.50
Software Expenses		300.00	-
Utilities		900.00	768.44
Website		150.00	168.80
Total Expense	Ś	55,010.00	\$ 48,110.06
Total Expense	-	33,010.00	7 40,110.00
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$	-	\$ 6,274.51
Valloy Grove Bulkhood Brainet			
Valley Grove Bulkhead Project			
Funding			12.012.62
Prior Year Fundraising			13,913.62
VG Note Checking Account			57,000.00
VG Savings Account			26,018.31
50/50 Savings Account		14	1,667.25
	\$	-	\$ 98,599.18
Costs			
Valley Grove Bulkhead Project			88,548.62
Net Project Surplus/(Deficit)	\$	3:00	\$ 10,050.56
Total Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$		\$ 16,325.07

Operating checking account balance as of 12/31/21 is \$16,155.65 VG Note checking account balance as of 12/31/21 is \$10,050.56 VG savings account has been closed 50/50 savings account has been closed

POENB Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2022

Our POENB meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting began at approximately 7:35 PM. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ryan C. introduced this meeting as our first Association meeting of 2022. He announced that while the new Board continues to monitor conditions associated with the late COVID-19 Omicron surge, it is the Board's strong desire and commitment to return to the Fire House for in-person meetings when it is safe to do so, in order to get members re-involved and engaged.

Roll Call of Officers:

Ryan Cote, President
Frank Pasquale, Vice President
Nora Beck, Treasurer
Steven Neuf, Assistant Vice President
Anthony Fusaro, Assistant Vice President
Yvonne Lambertson, Recording Secretary
Ryan Schaefer-Walker, Corresponding Secretary.



Minutes (Readings and Update):

Twenty-one (21) members attended the meeting and the

motion was raised to accept the minutes of our December meeting as posted to our website in our Changing Tides. The motion was seconded and approved.

Correspondence:

Ryan Schaefer-Walker provided the Correspondence Report, citing that the Board received three emails.

The first involved an individual who inquired about the possibility of paying POENB for winter storage of his large sail craft, which is in need of repair, and currently at Prices Bend. The Board respectfully indicated that our goal is to remove all boats and other watercraft and requested that he bring the sail craft to his property for said repairs. In the response, the Board conveyed their appreciation for his courtesy in asking.

A second individual contacted the Board after reading the December Changing Tides. Their email indicated that a number of paddleboards had been brought up to the top of the hill during the Valley Grove Bulkhead rebuild and asked if those could be moved back down. The Board replied to the email and returned those paddleboards, still unclaimed, to the watercraft rack area.

The third email was from National Service Bureau, a collections agency, acting on behalf of State Farm Insurance. This was related to a May 2021 incident, involving a Member who alleged that a Prices Bend tree limb damaged their car during a storm. The owner of the vehicle had it repaired through his auto insurer,

State Farm. State Farm is now seeking collection costs of the repair, car rental and deductible. This matter has been referred to POENB's insurer.

Gene Caputo also acknowledged that an email was received around the start time of tonight's call. The individual requested assistance from the Community to move his watercraft.

Presidents Report:

Ryan C. started by expressing his excitement for the new Board, citing that he has had the pleasure of getting to know and work with them over the last few weeks. He went into a brief description of each new and returning board member and then discussed the many talents each brings to the team. After offering introductions, Ryan C. took this opportunity to thank the prior Board for all they've done and reiterated that that board had been given the latitude to do their best work and that they had fulfilled that mission.

He went on to joke that old board members don't die, they just become committee chairs, citing as examples the many current volunteers who were previously on the Board such as Nick Cavuoto (beach reservations/oil buying), Frank Bonomo (watercraft), Bethany (social) and Gene Caputo (membership).

Ryan also mentioned that he's very happy to have a new board apprentice in Heather Kennedy who, with Ryan Schaefer-Walker and Bethany, hope to put their combined talents to work to bring some social events back to the POENB and return a sense of normalcy.

Ryan then suggested that that was a good segue into what the focus of this Board is going to try to do—return to normal. He noted that nothing has been normal the last few years and yet the POENB has worked harder than ever to deliver, including building seawalls, revamping the POENB website, refreshing the Changing Tides, expanding watercraft capacity and bringing needed order to the watercraft system. That, Ryan C. noted, is infrastructure we can build on and this board intends to do so. With that, Ryan C. presented the Board's five core 2022 priorities:

- 1. "Return to Normal" after years of COVID and Valley Grove bulkhead fundraising. The Board wishes to host in-person meetings at the Fire House, bring back social and fundraising events that can help build back and strengthen POENB's finances, and introduce new volunteer opportunities. He noted that in a world of "screen" Eaton's Neck is a genuine community of people. We live here because there aren't many places like it left, however it is not a concierge service. If one moves here, they must be part of it and contribute to it, or it falls apart.
- 2. Introduce new volunteer opportunities Over the years, Members have been asked to list their volunteer abilities on their POENB Membership Forms. This year, the Board desires to put those talents to work and will be contacting prospective volunteers to help with various community projects. Ryan C. cited a few examples, saying if one likes landscaping they may be asked to plant some flowers. If they own a Bobcat, they may be

asked to be part of an emergency beach erosion committee that helps to level beach sand following major storms).

- 3. Continue to use technology to streamline our processes Building off the success of our recent website redesign, we plan to leverage technology to improve other processes like assigning watercraft spaces, organizing volunteers, and online beach reservation system.
- 4. Targeting key areas of infrastructure that require work and allocate appropriate funding. Examples of these projects include beginning to repair the fence at Price's Bend in sections, re-working and improving the Dinghy rack area, building a dedicated rack for paddleboards, cutting back overgrown scrub at both Prices Bend and Valley Grove and sealing the steps at Valley Grove.
- 5. Increase POENB Membership. Ryan C. noted that he's not speaking to those who regularly attend meetings, or have given back by volunteering to run an Easter Egg Hunt or write an article for the Tides. He noted that he's speaking to Neck residents who receive the Tides and love the beaches yet still choose not to join, thus putting the financial burden on their neighbors. The purpose of POENB is to maintain our beaches.

Ryan C. went on to cite an example; last year Hurricane Ida brought a major washout that badly eroded Prices Bend and cost us nearly \$3000 to re-level the beach. Such sudden acts of nature, he noted, are becoming more prevalent. Where does that money come from? Member dues. He went on to cite excuses people give including the fact that they may not attend POENB social events or use the beaches. If you love it out here, he indicated, you should contribute funds to help maintain our home. POENB dues are small compared to other beach organizations. Whether one uses the beach or not, they benefit from them. POENB membership is an investment in the place we call home.

Presentation of the Budget:

Nora presented the Proposed Budget during the meeting, advising that it will be voted on at our February meeting.

The 2022 budget is in line with POENB's 2021 actual numbers and some adjustments:

- She added that Watercraft Usage was increased slightly; Membership Dues will not be increased in 2022; and \$500 was added as Social Event income. She concluded that the proposed budgeted income total is \$55,010.00. On the expense side, we have budgeted for \$2000 for Beach Cleanup (which includes a required larger dumpster); \$7,500 for Beach Improvements (e.g. Sections of fence repair, Dinghy area re-work and a Paddleboard Rack). The total amount budgeted for beach maintenance which includes raking, landscaping, trash removal, port-a-potty and some misc. expenses are consistent with last year at \$18,100. Nora noted that the Board is trying to carefully examine and tighten up costs associated with Beach Maintenance.
 - Other expenses like the Changing Tides were

consistent with the previous year. The loan repayment line represents 12 months of interest payments on our notes from the seawall. and the Fourth of July Donation amount was decreased slightly after receiving a refund from the ENFD in 2021.

- A Savings Fund line was added for \$2000 with the idea that this would evolve into a fund for the future Seawall project at Valley Grove and/or other unexpected incidents that occur at the beach, emergency repairs.
- Social expenses were also budgeted for the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Party and, in the hopes that



we can begin to have social events again, we budgeted \$2000 for other events. Utilities and Website are all in line with our actuals. Our ending cash balance on 12/31/2021 in our operating checking account was \$16,155.65. Our balance in our Note Account is \$10,050.56.

Nora returned the conversation to Ryan C.who explained that we're trying to seed an emergency fund which he (Ryan) would prefer to see receive even more annual funds in future years. He indicated that Nora noted we're paying interest on our notes. We want to hold onto those as we start the year just to determine how we're doing, but the goal would be at the end of the year, if we have a bit of surplus, to really start paying those notes off. This is why we're carefully examining some expenses, with the idea that if we can save a bit we can start to pay down our debt and fund some social event again, things that are important to community morale.

After the budget was presented, Ryan C. opened the floor to questions and reminded all that the Proposed Budget is a key issue vote would be publicized in the Changing Tides and on the POENB Website, prior to being voted on at our February Meeting.

Members had questions regarding Sales Tax and Pay-Pal fees. Pay Pal is a service we use so we can afford members the convenience of paying their membership online. It was also an easy way for folks to donate to the July 4th parade and other special Eaton's Neck initiatives such as the Valley Grove bulkhead fundraising effort. There is a PayPal transaction charge which we then pass along members who use it. Allowing members the option to join online provides added convenience and it benefits POENB because we're able to get the

Regarding sales tax, we currently go through a vendor to provide Eaton's Neck merchandise and we get a small rebate on what is sold. However, we do have some remaining T-shirts we printed from years past. The sales tax in the budget is really a placeholder line, in case we end up selling that merchandise.

In a questions/comments period that followed, Lauretta Alio raised the point that it's a fallacy when people say they don't join because they don't use the beaches because, she says, when people sell their houses, they always say that we have private beaches. So, everyone uses the beaches, whether they physically go to them or not.

Ryan C. echoed Lauretta's sentiments and indicated again that POENB membership is not a lot of money compared to the beautiful benefit we all get from our beaches.

Dave Lieberman stated his belief that the reason we don't pay property taxes at Valley Grove and Prices Bend is that the value of those beaches is reflected in the value of all people of Eaton's Neck. He asked if there might be a way for the TOH to have a special district or something where they collect what we require to maintain the beaches—as part of our tax bill. This would be assessed to everyone. The town would collect the money and give it back to us, like they give the money back to the school districts. Greg Atkins noted that this is how business improvement districts work in the city, they charge everyone X amount for living in this area and they collect it as part of your taxes each year and then they cut a check to the organization for what they collect. Ryan C noted that it is something to think about and thanked him for bringing it up. Christine Ballow asked if Dave would consider heading up a committee to investigate it.

Committee Reports: Membership:

Gene Caputo reported that POENB had 244 Members in 2021, a good solid number. He reminded all that the 2022 POENB Membership Drive will begin once the Budget Passes in February. He echoed Ryan C.'s earlier comments that we need to remind people that joining is not just supporting the beaches but that it is supporting the community. We had a lot of new people move in and Gene hopes they will all join POENB in 2022.

Watercraft:

A reminder was provided to Members that 2022 is a watercraft re-assign year. Through postings on our website, in the Changing Tides and on our firehouse sign, the Board has asked that all kayaks, dinghy's paddleboards, canoes and sail craft (hobbies and smaller sailboats) be brought home immediately as all watercraft were supposed to have been removed by December 1. This is necessary because the condition of the racks need to be checked in the off season and spots cleared so we can re assign and prevent spot squattingapersistent problem. This Board wishes to give everyone the opportunity to do the right thing. At some point we will have to cut locks and move craft which is not something we want to do—especially in the depths of winter so we ask for everyone's polite cooperation.

We will also be sending a note to those with sail craft there reminding them that sailboat spots are lottery spots, issued every year (not every two) and that they also must be removed. We're trying to reinforce the idea that these beaches belong to everyone and they



To ensure the quickest response to an emergency situation please dial 9 1 1 . Trained fire department responders will answer your call for help 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

January of this year brings about a transition in the leadership of the department. The outgoing Chief, Steven Zulawski served for three years rather than the normal term of two years. The new Chief, Peter (P.J.) Hluboky is a lifelong resident of Eaton's Neck. The first Assistant Chief is John Pokorny and the Second Assistant Chief is Michael Pinto. These leaders of the department are supported by Fire Captains Gregory Atkins and Robert Ryan. The two fire Lieutenants are Sean Cuiffo and Gary Swartz. All of the officers were elected by the membership of the department in December and took office on January 1, 2022. The Rescue Squad officers are Captain Andrew Reid and Lieutenant Elizabeth Digangi, All these leaders face unknown responsibilities as the variants of the Covid continue to afflict our community and country. All members of the department wish them successful and safe terms of office in 2022.

The department members thank the community members who supported the Christmas tree sale! It was a great success as almost all the trees were sold on Saturday December 11. The children's Christmas party was also a great success on Sunday December 12 highlighted by a visit from Santa Claus.

In the second half of the month the department responded to a motor vehicle accident at the corner of Robert Lennox Drive and Eaton's Neck Road. A few days later the department was called out on a mutual aid call to assist the Northport Fire Department as it battled a house fire early in the morning of December 22, 2021.

Exercise extreme care when using space heaters, do not leave them unattended, or place them near flammable material. The tragic fire story from the Bronx resulting in multiple deaths is a grim reminder of the need to be careful during the heating season

Yours for fire safety, Rich Baer.

are not a place to abandon property. We'll continue to beat that drum. Soon we're just going to go down and start cutting.

A member had emailed asking for help moving his craft. Ryan C. indicated that the board is willing to help where we can and within reason but our preference would be for members to call relatives or close friends to help them move their property. Ryan also shared that Yvonne has been hard at work looking at ways to make our system for watercraft space assignment more efficient.

Changing Tides:

We are seeking new volunteers to create issues of the Changing Tides. The POENB Board is working on a "how to" guide on the tides to prospective volunteers. We are seeking folks "guest edit" a few issues a year so that with a few volunteers, the work can be spread among a few. The guide would be an easy stepby-step on how to do that. People can reach out to info@eatonsneck.org or to changingtides@eatonsneck.org if interested in guest-managing an issue.

Social:

A Social Committee is being formulated. No further update was provided.

Planning and Zoning:

Frank Pasquale been tasked with trying to reach to former Highway Supervisor Kevin Orelli to see if POENB can obtain a letter the Town of Huntington received from the DEC, saying that, should a wash out occur again. The Town has clearance to help POENB move sand back into place (from the waterline back up) should they be willing to do so. Frank has not yet made contact but indicates we will get it.

Beach:

Ryan C. reported that, per Suffolk County Water Authority requirements, we had our backflow valves at Prices Bend tested in early December. When we opened the box to test the valves it was filled with water that appeared to be seeping in from the ground. Swezey tested the valves and they passed. We then contacted Suffolk County Water who came out two days later to review the leak. Suffolk Water determined that we had a leak between the street and our water meter which is their responsibility. They fixed the leak and the back-flow valve box now appears to be dry. They also indicated we are due a credit from Suffolk County Water Authority, as the leak was their responsibility. Anthony Fusaro contacted Suffolk Water Authority on behalf of POENB to discuss a potential credit and will continue to follow up on that.

New Business:

Ryan C. shared information regarding a joyriding incident that occurred at Prices Bend on the night after Christmas. He acknowledged that a police report was filed the following day and the part number of a piece of the vehicle left at the beach was published on PO-ENB's social media pages with the hope that someone would recognize the vehicle and come forward with more information.

Ryan C. also apprised the meeting that members have been dumping their personal trash in the POENB dumpster at Prices Bend. He noted that we have reports of people dumping their fall leaves in there and, more recently, their Christmas wrapping garbage. Ryan reiterated for the minutes what we all already know — dumping personal garbage in the POENB dumpster is not allowed. Ryan Shaefer-Walker was, at the time of the meeting, in communication with Winters Brothers about removing it or at least securing it. Ryan C. asked

residents to please not dump personal family trash/debris in the POENB dumpster because doing so is selfish and rude to everyone else.

Ryan C. stated that it is the policy of this Board to encourage future Board participation. To that end, anyone who has been thinking about joining the Board and would like to see how things work behind the scenes, is welcome to join in on any of our internal Board meetings/zooms. This is an opportunity to listen and learn and create your own Board apprenticeship of sorts, with no strings attached. Please email info@eatonsneck.org if you'd like to attend an internal Board meeting.

Greg Atkins provided an update regarding the Eaton's Neck Fire Department, noting that as of January 1, 2022, PJ Hluboky became the new Chief, John Pokorny became Assistant Chief, and Mike Pinto became Second Assistant Chief. He thanked Steve Zulawski who served his two-year term plus an extended third year due the COVID-19 Pandemic. Greg suggested that if you see Steve around to give him your thanks, because he did a great job as Chief and everyone in the department appreciated his service. He also noted that the ENFD is looking forward to the next few years.



Before adjourning the meeting, Ryan C. inquired if there were any new members. No new members were present. He thanked the new Board who gave up time over the holidays to work on the budget. Ryan C. concluded by making a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Christine Ballow, followed by a reminder that our next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2022. Ryan C. indicated we will be checking with the fire to determine if the meeting will be allowed at the Fire House or not. He concluded by restating that this Board really does want to bring people back inperson meetings. He acknowledged the convenience of Zoom, especially on a cold winter's night. But, part of what we have to do out here is get people out of doors and communicate again in-person.

The meeting was adjourned at approx.8:37 pm.





2022 POENB Meeting Schedule

Friday Jan 7 @7:30 Friday Feb 4 @7:30 Friday March 4 @7:30 Friday April 1 @7:30 Friday May 6 @7:30 Friday June 3 @7:30

Friday July 1 @7:30-outdoor meeting at Price's Bend - (if rain, at fire house)
*Friday Aug 5 @7:30-outdoor meeting at Valley Grove - (if rain, at fire house)

Friday Sep 2 @7:30 Friday Oct 7 @7:30 Friday Nov 4 @7:30 Friday Dec 2 @7:30

*Beginning of Labor Day weekend. We still plan on holding a meeting



Book Nook

With temperatures plunging, it's a perfect time to hibernate with a good book. The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman will bring cheer to any grey day. Set in a charming, British retirement village, a group of retirees hob knob over cold cases, using their collective puzzle-solving ability to crack them. When a local developer is found dead, they find themselves in the midst of their first live investigation. A fun, entertaining read.

The Nature of Fragile Things by Susan Meissner is another good read for a dreary winter day. Set during the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, it is a captivating story about an Irish immigrant who flees New York City to marry a stranger. With unexpected twists and turns, it is a tale of resilience, friendship and historical insight.

-- Kelly Gifford



*** NOTICE OF KEY ISSUE VOTE ***

Please join us at our next POENB meeting which will be held in-person at the Eaton's Neck Firehouse on Friday February 4th 2022 at 7:30 pm.

At that meeting we will conduct
a Key Issue Vote to approve
the proposed 2022 Budget.
Voting will be conducted in person
with one vote per member household
and the issue shall be carried
by a simple majority of votes cast.

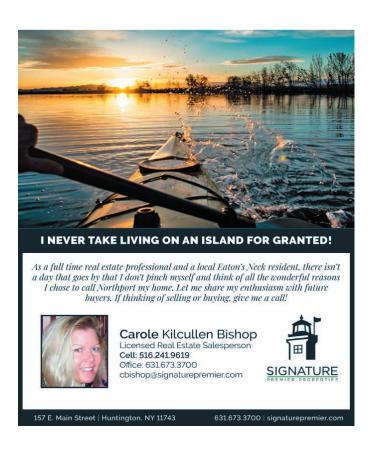
Please wear a mask. Should it be necessary to revert to Zoom, we will notify you by email.

GARBAGE

To the persons using the POENB dumpster at Price's Bend to throw out personal kitchen garbage, lawn debris and garden leaves and most recently bags of Christmas wrapping, please stop.

POENB dumpsters are for POENB beach refuse only. Your actions cost the entire membership money because we now have to pay extra to have your trash removed.

Please use your own town's curbside collection services.



Lindstadt Snow Plowing

Exclusive for Eaton's Neck Residents (Driveways)



Jerry Hehir, Owner 812 Fort Salonga Rd. Northport, NY Phone: 516-769-1111 Please call or text if interested info@lindstadtgutters.com



Our cover photo this month reveals the large number of water craft still on the racks and beach. As a reminder, all kayaks, canoes dinghy's, paddleboards, small sailboats and Hobie Cats should have been brought home by December 1st.

2022 is a POENB watercraft reassign year. In the winter, spots are inspected for safety and improvements made. Additionally, clearing spots allows us to re-shuffle them every two years.

This board, through the Changing Tides, via e-blast and the fire house sign, has made every effort to alert owners. This post serves as final notice that any craft left on POENB property will be removed, even if chains must be cut to do so.

For more on our watercraft policy, please visit eatonsneck.org

Thank You

