

# Changing Tides

A Publication of the Property Owners of Eaton's Neck Beach



## President's Message



And all at once, summer collapsed into fall." - Oscar Wilde.

Fall is officially upon us here on The Neck. The winds have grown colder and the days are getting shorter. But as we look forward to trees changing color, we should be grateful for the wonderful summer season we just enjoyed here in paradise.



We closed out summer 2023 with our second annual Endless Summer Concert! The Valley Grove Sunset was the perfect backdrop to the Division Street Band who rocked hit after hit while members enjoyed great food and friends. Traditions can't take root without early supporters and POENB sends a big thank you to all members who came out. I send a special shout out to Ryan Schaefer-Walker, Heather Kennedy and Tom and Carole Bishop for making this event happen. Thanks also to Steve Neuf for bringing electric and lights to Valley Grove. The new power will allow expanded use of both POENB beach properties.



Next up will be annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28th. Kids and parents are invited to get their ghouls on, put on a costume and meet at the firehouse a little before noon for the parade kickoff. After the neighborhood march, we'll head back to the firehouse for treats, fire safety demos, a chance for kids to spray the fire hose and ENFD info for adults who may be interested in joining.



Reminder to all, this is an odd year, which means all water craft need to be removed from the racks no later than December 1st so we can get the areas cleaned up and maintained for your enjoyment next season. Your board works very hard to keep the beaches in order and the only way we can do that is with the respect and participation of our members. Thank you for your help.



Get out the rakes, start bringing in the firewood and put some hot coco on the stove. Fall is one of the nicest seasons on Eaton's Neck and we've got tricks, treats and turkey trots coming.

Frank Pasquale  
POENB President

September 2023

## POENB Minutes for Friday September 8, 2023

The meeting was held in person from 7:00 pm to 7:40 pm at Valley Grove beach.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a roll call of officers.

### Officer Roll Call:

- Frank Pasquale - President
- Ryan Schaefer-Walker - Vice President
- Anthony Fusaro - Treasurer
- Yvonne Lamberston - Asst. Vice President (Tech., Web and Communications)
- Steve Neuf - Assistant Vice President (Engineering and Special Projects)
- Sally Neal - Recording Secretary
- Nancy Reagan - Corresponding Secretary

### Attendance:

Approximately 12 members, including officers, were in attendance.

Frank Pasquale's motion to accept last month's minutes as posted on the POENB website was seconded and the minutes were approved.

### President's Report: - (Frank Pasquale)

Frank reminded members that POENB's next social event - "Endless Summer" - will take place on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 3 pm to 7pm. This year's band, "Division Street", will play a selection of tunes from the 1970s. Food and soft drinks will be provided. Adult members are asked to BYOB if they'd like to enjoy an alcoholic beverage. As of September 7th, approximately 40 persons have RSVP'd. Walk-ins will be welcome at the event. See the POENB website for additional information.

Frank then asked John Ballow, who is the POENB's designated point person, to update the members on two public safety issues.

**1. PSEG** - PSEG is making excellent progress on improving the reliability of electrical power to Eaton's Neck as well as

### POENB Income Statement as of September 8, 2023

<u>Income</u>	
Beach Usage/Rental Fees	\$840.29
Changing Tides Ads	0.00
Interest Income – Bank	0.06
Membership Dues	
Senior	\$20,666.72
Standard	<u>31,542.99</u>
Total	\$51,209.71
Social Events	
4th July	\$935.00
Parti Gras	4,935.82
Endless Summer	<u>\$1,730.00</u>
Total	\$7,600.82
Watercraft Income	\$638.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$61,289.38</b>

<u>Expenses</u>	
Bank Charges & Fees	\$60.00
Beach Expenses	9,316.64
Beach Improvements	6,604.29
Beach Security Expense	3,391.89
Changing Tides Expense	2,515.94
Meeting Expenses	10.85
PayPal Fees	921.71
QuickBooks Payments Fees	16.74
NY State Sales Tax	26.67
Social Expenses	
4th July Parade	\$1,500.00
Egg Hunt	490.70
Parti Gras	<u>4,280.23</u>
Total Social Expenses	\$6,270.93
Software/Website Expenses	362.09
Utilities	
Prices Bend	\$208.94
Valley Grove	157.61
Total	\$366.55
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,854.30</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$31,435.08</b>

### Balance Sheet Items as of September 8, 2023

● Operating checking account balance	\$ 47,944.61
● Beach Fund checking account balance	2,000.00
● 50/50 Savings account balance	640.13
● PayPal Bank	<u>1,094.80</u>
● <b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$51,679.54</b>

decreasing the frequency and duration of outages.

All PSEG projects, the details of which have been described several times in prior issues of the Changing Tides, are on track for completion by Q1 '24. Collectively, these projects should reduce the number of



outages EN experiences (currently ~20 per year) by 70%.

John and Frank urged members who experienced personal property damages due to the electrical outage on February 3-4 to submit their claims to PSEG. The claim form can be found on the PSEG website (<http://www.psegliny.com/claims>). While the form may be returned via email, fax or US mail, email is best since the email box is monitored 24/7. To date, PSEG has paid individual EN residents, who were economically damaged by the power outage, between \$400 to \$4,000 for their claims.

**2. Bevin Seawall** - As discussed previously, the Bevin Seawall is rapidly deteriorating. For more than two decades, politics has negatively interfered with the development of feasible engineering solutions to permanently fix the Bevin Seawall.

John Ballow, as Eaton's Neck representative, is working with multiple impacted stakeholders to:

(1). Further educate local, state, and federal politicians of the public safety hazards to the 2,000 residents living north of Bevin Road (inability to access fire, police, and health services), and

(2). Provide a fact base to help politicians (Village of Asharoken (VOA), Town of Huntington (TOH), Suffolk County, and NYS) collaborate with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the US Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) on solutions and funding.

John Ballow provided the following updates:

(1). As discussed in last month's edition of the Changing Tides, Keith Brown (NYS Assemblyman) shepherded the process to "release" \$50,000 of previously budgeted and approved state funds to be spent on additional rocks for the Bevin Road Seawall. These funds were provided to the Village of Asharoken (VOA). However, per the VOA's meeting minutes, the town has spent only



## EATON'S NECK FIRE DEPARTMENT

911 is the number to call in the event of a medical or fire emergency. Please do not hesitate, time is very important in both situations.

The department recently placed a new ambulance in service for the community. While it looks the same as the one it replaced, it is slightly larger with a bigger, more powerful engine which makes it more useful, given the special conditions of Eaton's Neck.

The Eaton's Neck Volunteer Fire Department has approximately 50 members to serve a community of approximately 500 families. The value of these volunteers is a topic rarely discussed. However, a recent study by the Firefighters Association of the State of New York provided one measure of the value of volunteers.

The Eaton's Neck Fire Department makes up a small fraction of the 60,000 dedicated N.Y. volunteer firefighters who not only save lives and property, but also help New York taxpayers save \$4.7 billion annually through their services.

This figure was released by a recent study by the Firefighters Association of the State of New York and the report emphasized the critical role first responders play in safeguarding 85% of the communities in N.Y. Volunteer departments provide vital protection and services during emergencies and contribute significantly to their communities through continuous training, outreach, and fire safety information. Volunteer firefighters are being called upon more often to help with major emergencies and water and hazmat rescues. For example, during the Buffalo NY blizzard, volunteers risked their lives to rescue stranded motorists and residents trapped in their homes.

Furthermore, volunteer firefighters reduce municipal government expenses by eliminating the need to pay for career firefighter wages, benefits and related costs. Currently, volunteer firefighters save N.Y. taxpayers \$3.8 billion in salaries and benefits for an additional 31,058 career fighters to go to an all-paid fire service. The history of volunteer fire service in New York is long and treasured as a community service, the key to this service is the availability and devotion of volunteers. Just as the department placed a new ambulance in service, there is a need for new members of the fire department to keep the community safe. Please consider joining the fire department.

Yours for fire safety, Rich Baer

\$15,000 of the available \$50,000. Specifically, VOA spent \$10,000 on additional rocks to bolster the Seawall and \$5,000 on an engineering study. They are reserving the remaining \$35,000 for future repairs.

(2). The VOA has also secured two \$1 million grants.

(a) The first \$1 million is an earmark from Sen. Schumer to substantially repair

## FOUND HISTORY!



## Did You Know...

... that several courageous men rescued 150 passengers from a steamer sinking off Eaton's Neck in 1846?

A Nor'easter was blowing on the morning of November 1, 1846, when friends and fellow sea captains, Selah Bunce and John Udell, were leaving church services at the Methodist Church in Centerport. A horseback rider from Crabmeadow rode up and told them that a steamer, the Rhode Island, bound for New York from Stonington, CT, was flailing off the coast of Eaton's Neck.

Captain Udell ordered a whaleboat to be brought to the scene, and with a crew of five men, and Captain Bunce at the helm, they rowed out to the steamer in perilous conditions. After many repeated trips they were able to rescue all 150 passengers.

The thankful passengers presented Captain Bunce with a gold medal, however Bunce always believed that the medal to Udell's Alice, when went on to builder Sammis.

The handed generations family, until the North-Society last four-time great-grandson of Alice Udell Sammis.

Did you also know that Captain Selah Bunce's house once stood at the foot of James Street and was later converted into Karl's Mariners Inn?



CAPTAIN SELAH BUNCE

Udell deserved and so left it daughter, he died. Alice marry master Charles T.

medal was down through of the Sammis it was left to port Historical month by the

- Terry Reid

engineering study is a necessary first step to secure funding to implement the study. Politicians have estimated that the cost to execute the engineering design to fully restore the seawall and the beach could cost \$15 to \$20 million.

(e) The VOA plans to issue an RFP (request for proposal) for qualified firms to bid on this engineering design study in the near future.

(3). After the engineering study to design a permanent solution to ensure the safe and secure access of residents who live beyond the Bevin Seawall is completed, the VOA plans to "re-engage" with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE), and the NYS DEC about construction funding and responsibilities.

(4). As discussed previously, multiple governmental entities/administrative agencies have authority and responsibility for the seawall.

These include (a) the VOA (since the seawall is located in the Village), (b) the Town of Huntington (since it represents EN residents who must pass by the Seawall to get to and from their homes), (c) the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) (since they are responsible for protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural resources and environment and enhance the health, safety and welfare of NYS residents), (d) the ACOE (since they originally dredged the sand and made other changes to the environment), (e) Suffolk County (since the Seawall is in SC and SC owns property, acquired in a tax foreclosure, near Bevin Road), and (f) NYS and the US Federal

several hundred feet of collapsing sheet steel.

(b) The second \$1 million is a hazard Mitigation Grant to prepare an engineering solution to permanently restore the seawall and the beach.

(c) Both grants have a local share meaning that VOA (ideally with NYS) must fund \$250K of the first \$1 million grant and \$107,600 of the second \$1 million grant.

(d) The VOA believes that conducting the

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government (given the need to coordinate across jurisdictions/administrative agencies).

Not surprisingly, these different governmental entities and administrative agencies have different mandates, follow different processes and protocols and have different priorities. However, all parties agree that to move forward there must be a “local, willing, capable and funded sponsor” to lead and drive the effort.

Unfortunately, a local government leader (e.g., VOA, TOH, and/or Suffolk County) has not been identified.

As a result, while there have been several live and virtual meetings attended by local and state leaders, the path forward to permanently fixing the Bevin Seawall appears to be in a “holding pattern.”

**\*\* Watercraft**



**Message \*\***

2024 is a watercraft re-assign year. We kindly ask that all kayaks, dinghy's paddleboards, canoes and sailboats be brought home by December 1st, 2023.

In the winter, these watercraft spots are inspected for safety and improvements are made. Clearing these spots also allows us to re-shuffle them every two years.

To learn more about POENB policy and why watercraft spaces are reassigned every two years please visit <https://eatonsneck.org/notice-all-watercraft-must-be-removed/>

(5.) Residents and other interested parties are asked to complete a survey sent out by Keith Brown, NYS Assemblyman. This survey, which is due on September 15th, allows NYS residents to communicate where and how they would like the \$4.2 billion of funds available from the “Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Job Environmental Bond Act” that was passed on November 8, 2022. Specifically, EN residents are asked to request that the funds be used for the “Asharoken Seawall & Dune Reconstruction.”

To make it easier for residents to complete the survey, POENB sent an email to

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## Book Nook

'Tis the season for snuggling up with a good book.

2023 has been a fantastic year for new releases. One of my favorite authors, Ann Patchett, never disappoints, and her latest novel, *Tom Lake*, is no exception. *Tom Lake* is an homage to Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" with much of the story's focus set on and off the stage of a local theatre, as told through the protagonist, Lara. Decades later, Lara and her three daughters are holed up on the family's Northern Michigan cherry farm during the 2020 Covid lockdown where Lara's daughters beg her to recount the tale of her eventful summer starring as Emily. An excellent, engaging read.

Another publishing hit this year is *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. Spanning three generations from 1900 to the 1970's, this epic novel is a family saga set in southwest India. The family has a mysterious condition that results in death by drowning by several family members over multiple generations. It is a literary masterpiece, brilliantly written with a lot of twists and turns. If you liked Verghese's first novel, *Cutting for Stone*, you will love *The Covenant of Water*.

My other favorites that came out in 2023 are *Watch Us Shine* by Marissa de los Santos and Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperfield*. I highly recommend both.

- Happy Reading,  
Kelly Gifford

members which recommended responses. The Board urges members to complete this survey as it represents another opportunity to obtain funding for the Bevin Seawall.

### Treasurer's Report: -(Anthony Fusaro)

Anthony provided highlights from the Income Statement for the period January 1, 2023 to September 8, 2023 and three Balance Sheet line items as of September 8, 2023.

While income from beach usage, membership, social events, and watercraft spaces were robust, net income decreased from the prior period given expected increases in seasonal beach expenses (e.g., split rail fence at PB, new beach security camera at PB, new utilities at VG as well as three social events - 4th of July Parade, Partí Gras, and Endless Summer).

POENB's financial condition continue to remain strong. Please see Page 2 for all the financials.

### POENB Membership: - (Gene Caputo)

Gene noted that POENB has continued to attract new members during the summer months. As of September 8, 2023, 256 memberships had been sold. In 2022, POENB had 252 members which had been an historical high.

The Board would like to thank all residents who continue to help preserve our beaches and make Eaton's Neck a fun, friendly, safe, and engaging community.

### Beach Maintenance: - (Steve Neuf)

#### Price's Bend:

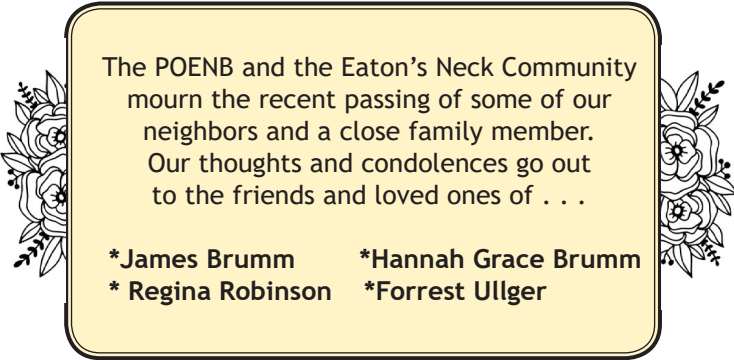
A few members have inquired about the large dirt pile that exists near the parking lot entrance to Price's Bend. Members have noted that it is unsightly and may attract vermin. Frank Pasquale, President stated that over the next few weeks, this dirt pile will be transferred to Valley Grove and used for landscaping and other purposes.

#### Valley Grove:

Previously, members noted that the VG facility has been plagued with overgrown weeds, poison ivy, and other yard maintenance issues. These issues have been corrected.

Finally, Steve Neuf stated that VG now is electrified. It has a new meter pan, circuit breaker, GFI outlets and a motion sensor light with disconnect.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 6th.



The POENB and the Eaton's Neck Community mourn the recent passing of some of our neighbors and a close family member. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the friends and loved ones of . . .

\*James Brumm      \*Hannah Grace Brumm  
\*Regina Robinson   \*Forrest Ullger



# community

## Bulletin Board



The rain stayed away and the Division Street Band rocked "The Grove" for hours with a wide array of classic hits during POENB's Endless Summer party on September 9th.



This event is going to get better every year. The music can change (yacht rock anyone?) but a Valley Grove Sunset is the always the perfect accompaniment.  
\*\* Thank you, members!

### Changing Tides Bevin Seawall Update (highlights from Asharoken 9/5 report)

Asharoken announced a 3-prong plan based on the over \$2m of funding that has been approved: 1) Emergency Repairs, 2) Engineering Design and Construction for a Long-Term Solution, and 3) Rebuild the most deteriorated section of the wall.

#### 1) Emergency Repairs

In August, Asharoken, assisted by the Town of Huntington Highway Department, led by Superintendent Andre Sorrentino, did a repair to the two sinkhole areas. Approximately 173 tons of rock were added to the wall in an effort to strengthen it for the upcoming hurricane and nor'easter season. The project will be paid for by utilizing part of a \$50,000 grant that State Assemblyman Keith Brown secured for the Village. The total cost of the project was \$10,106.65 for the materials and \$8160 for GEI's engineering fees. This leaves the Village approximately \$32,708.35 that can use as needed for future repairs until the grant expires on May 5, 2026.

The Village deemed it prudent to keep a reserve for now as any future comprehensive reconstruction of the wall and beach are probably years away. Until then it is likely that parts of the wall will need to be fixed.

#### 2) Engineering Design and Construction for a Long-Term Solution

On August 24, Asharoken met with Christa Hay from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to discuss the \$1,000,000 Hazard Mitigation Grant for Sea Wall Shoreline/Rehabilitation that was awarded to the Village in July. This money funds the Village to engage an engineering firm to review the entire seawall area, including the beach, and come up with a comprehensive reconstruction design. The Village expects to start writing up a Request for Proposal for engineers in the next few months.

#### 3) Rebuild the most deteriorated section of the wall

Asharoken continued to work with NYS DOT to finalize forms in order to go forward with the \$1,000,000 earmark that was secured for Asharoken by Senator Chuck Schumer. This money is for construction to rebuild the most deteriorated section of the wall. Asharoken is interviewing engineering firms.

Asharoken requested the Town of Huntington and NYS to assist Asharoken in paying for the local share of the earmark and grant. The maximum local share of the grant is \$107,000 and the local share of the earmark is \$250,000.

In addition to the 3-prong plan above, discussions with the NYS DEC and US Army Corp are proceeding in parallel to possibly re-engage the Army Corp, with recent meetings, calls and follow-ups planned.

Sincerest thanks to NYS Senator Mario Mattera and NYS Assemblyman Brown for their extensive efforts on behalf of the Greater Eaton's Neck Community.

Update submitted by John Ballow on behalf  
of the Greater Eaton's Neck Community Group





Daniel Gale

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**11<sup>TH</sup> Annual**

# Halloween Parade

**October 28<sup>TH</sup> NOON MEETING @ FD** Following the parade enjoy some spooky fire-safety back at the firehouse



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