

# Changing Tides

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



Dear Eaton's Neck Friends, Family, and Neighbors



It is that time of year again, and we are thrilled to announce our beloved annual summer tradition: the Fourth of July parade! Mark your calendars for July 4th, 2024, and get ready to celebrate our nation's independence with friends, family, and neighbors.



This year, we intend to make the parade more vibrant and exciting than ever. We encourage everyone to channel their creativity and community spirit by designing a float to be part of this year's parade. Whether it's a simple, patriotic display or an elaborate, themed masterpiece, your participation will help make our parade a memorable event for all. In the past, streets and neighbors have coordinated their efforts and joined together to produce some truly memorable floats.



Our parade will begin at the Eaton's Neck Firehouse (55 Eaton's Neck Road). Lineup starts at 9:30 a.m. on Essex Drive, with the parade kicking off at 10:00 a.m. sharp. We'll march to Price's Bend Beach, where a short ceremony will take place, followed by a fantastic barbecue co-sponsored by the POENB and the Eaton's Neck Fire Department.



Creating a float is a fun and rewarding activity for all ages, and it's a wonderful way to showcase our neighborhood pride. Let's come together to celebrate and make this year's parade the best one yet! If you need inspiration or have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@eatonsneck.org](mailto:info@eatonsneck.org).



We can't wait to see your amazing creations and celebrate this special day with you. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for our community events.  
With warm regards,

Thomas J. Kehoe, Jr.  
President, Property Owners of Eaton's Neck Beach Association

May/June 2024

## POENB Minutes for Wednesday, June 5, 2024

The meeting was held in person at the Eaton's Neck Firehouse and also on Zoom

7:05 pm to 8:30 pm The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a roll call of officers.

### Officer Roll Call

- Tom Kehoe - President
- Ryan SchaeferWalker - Vice President and Treasurer
- Yvonne Lambertson - Assistant Vice President
- Anthony Fusaro - Assistant Vice President
- Steve Neuf - Assistant Vice President
- Sally Neal - Recording Secretary
- Nancy Regan - Corresponding Secretary

### Attendance

15 members and 7 officers were physically in attendance. Six also dialed in via Zoom.

Tom Kehoe's motion to accept last month's minutes as published on the POENB Website was accepted.

The June issue of the Changing Tides will be a combined May/June issue. The May minutes were posted on the POENB website and members were linked to those minutes via an eblast.

### Membership - Gene Caputo

As of June 5, 2024, 230 EN (out of 419 or 55%) homeowners have chosen to become POENB members. The total number of members is slightly less than last year at this point in time. Of the 230 members, 127 (55%) were seniors and 103 (45%) were standard members. The majority of members pay their dues via paper check.

### Treasurer's Report - Ryan Schaefer-Walker

The Treasurer's Report (see details on page 2)

Revenues for the period were \$61.5K of which \$52.3K was from membership dues, The remaining revenue was attributed to watercraft fees, Changing Tides ads, social fees, and beach rentals. Expenses were approximately \$24.6 K. The majority of which were spent to clean and maintain the beaches. Net income for the period was approximately \$37K

As of June 5, POENB had roughly \$63K in all of its bank accounts.

### Social Committee - Ryan Schaefer-Walker

- Light Beach Clean Up, Meet Your Neighbors and Community Service Event was held Sat, May 11th at 10 am. Thank you to all that volunteered.

This month's cover, "Dinghy's at Hobart Beach" by Kelly Gifford

- Partí Gras - took place at PB on Sunday, May 26th at 3 pm. Although attendance was less than in prior years, participants thoroughly enjoyed the event. Thank you to all the volunteers and ENFD that made this event happen.

- Community Garage Sale - Hit off after the rain on Sunday, June 9th from 10 am to 3 pm

### Fourth of July Parade

POENB and the ENFD have jointly sponsored a 4th of July parade for decades. It's one of very few community sponsored parades on LI and the only 4th parade in the TOH. This fun, patriotic event traditionally consisted of residents making Americana floats (using bicycles, cars, and wagons), a convoy of antique cars and old and new fire trucks, speeches by local politicians and a free hamburger and hot dog BBQ at the conclusion.

This year, the parade will start at the firehouse at 10 am and then wind its way down to PB. It will conclude with some brief words by representatives from the TOH, POENB, and ENFD. Active service members from the EN USCG will serve as color guard.

Shortly after the speeches have concluded and once the grills and food are ready, a free BBQ (hamburgers and hot dog) will commence.



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POENB and ENFD are looking for volunteers to help transport the BBQ food and grills (stored at the FH) to PB. Please contact the POENB board if you're interested.

However, given prior year issues with aggressive water battling and significant balloon debris littering the parade route, this year the ENFD and POENB have agreed to:

- a. BAN ALL water fighting - NO water guns, NO water balloons, and NO water launchers (lacrosse sticks or "aquazookers" or the like) on the parade route
- b. ENCOURAGE residents to create "FLOATS" that use them to march in the parade- decorate bikes, cars or wagons with (1) red, white and blue streamers, stars and balloons (filled with air), (2) the American flag, or (3) pictures of George Washington, other founding fathers, or the Statue of Liberty. To spark ideas, pictures of prior year floats will be posted on the POENB website and Facebook
- c. HOLD the BBQ at PB vs at the firehouse as was done in past year

**Correspondence - Tom Kehoe and Nancy Regan**  
Asterisk items are further discussed in other sections of these minutes. The Board received emails and letters about:

- Beach Clean Up Participation - Only 1 person showed up to beautify VG and attendance was sparse at PB
- Feedback on Road Improvements & TOH Safety (solicited by John Ballow & Bob Dennis): (1) re-pave Worchester Ct, London Ct, Peterborough Dr and Birmingham Dr and (2) use signage to better control speeding on Birmingham and EN Road
- Beach Security, Beach Usage, Beach Rules and Beach Maintenance\*
- a. Concerns about limited access security at both beaches
- b. Observations of non-EN residents "trespassing" / "wandering" from Hobart to PB and fishing, urinating, and dumping garbage
- c. Comments about dogs (unleashed and leashed) on both PB and VG defecating on the beach without owners picking up their dog's waste
- d. Questions regarding the definition of a "guest" (per the Beach Rules) and the need to accompany any permitted guests.
- e. Observations about fishing at both beaches which is a violation of the Beach Rules
- f. Concerns about the durability of VG stairs
- 4th of July Parade \* - Need to communicate prohibition against water fighting
- Watercraft - Various emails regarding stickers and spots for watercraft
- Official Letters \*
- a. From SC Dept of Health regarding VG beach closure



Thank you, Peter.

For those who may not know, The Changing Tides has been chronicling life on Eaton's Neck since the early 1970's (that I can remember) and likely longer than that. Over the span of the fifty-plus years getting the Tides out has relied on the volunteerism of scores of local writers, artists, board members, block captains and advertisers to keep it moving forward. One editorial team keeps it going for a while then invariably hands it off to a new group. Decades change, fashions change, politics change, but the Changing Tides continues to roll in and out, unabated.

Back in 2018, that baton was handed off to myself and Peter Cartwright. I volunteered myself as a writer and content coordinator. Peter was "volunteered" by his wife Anya who knew I was in dire need of a graphic designer. When I called him, he seemed somewhat confused as to who exactly had given me his name, but he dutifully answered the call, in service to Eaton's Neck. Since that day, we've worked on every issue together. Over the span of just over seven years and 59 issues, we were able to introduce color to the front and back pages, add in a community bulletin board and re-introduce feature articles from our talented members in the areas such as history, book reviews and more.

Peter's final issue was March 2024. Shortly thereafter, this past May, he passed away. I wanted to take some space in this issue to thank him for all the time and talent he gave to Eaton's Neck over the course of six years. Many people have remarked to me, personally, how much they enjoy seeing the latest Changing Tides in their mailbox. What most do not see are the hours of work that go into each issue, many spent inside on sunny weekend afternoons when folks are out enjoying the Eaton's Neck weather. Peter gave of his time, selflessly, so that we could all have a nice community paper to bind us. Such things matter.

The Changing Tides, on behalf of the Eaton's Neck community, send our heartfelt condolences to the Cartwright family. Per an online social media post by Anya Cartwright, if anyone wishes to do something meaningful in Peter's memory, please consider donating to UAPPY Inc. --a non-profit 501 (C)(3) founded by the Cartwright family-- to help displaced and suffering animals in Ukraine. The url is <https://www.uappy.org/support-us>

- Ryan Cote



for bathing until further notice given high levels of bacteria

b. From Andre Sorrentino, Highway Supervisor about the TOH accessing VG to examine and make changes to alleviate flooding on Westview and Carlisle

● Status of follow ups from prior minutes

a. Installation of dog waste disposal (DOGIPOT)

b. Abandoned / unclaimed watercraft

c. USCG - status of possible closure of EN station

### Beach Report - Tom Kehoe and Steve Neuf

● VG - stairs

As discussed during prior meetings, the VG stairs are rickety. Tom Bishop made a temporary repair but a permanent solution is needed. Steve Neuf is conducting additional due diligence on three bids from three different vendors and will make a recommendation (see list below).

□ Option 1 replace the existing stairs with Grade 3, Ground Contact, pressure treated (PT), kiln-dried after treatment (KDAT) lumber.

□ Option 2 move the existing location of the stairs and then install stairs made of stone.

□ Option 3 use Trex, a composite material made of recycled plastic and wood to replace the existing stairs

If the repair cost is less than the current threshold for a board-only decision, the board will deliberate and take action. However, if the cost exceeds the board-only authority, the recommendation will be presented to members for a key vote.

● Beach Rules

The beach rules are available on the POENB website. A discussion ensued at the meeting that many members and non-members are not fully aware of the rules.

For example, the beach rules state that

□ Only members (in good standing - meaning dues paid in full) and their immediate family (since the membership "unit of account" is a residence) may use the POENB beach properties

□ Guests are not permitted at any time (accompanied or unaccompanied), except at selected social events, and

□ Dogs are not permitted on the beach at any time.

Given the lack of knowledge or confusion about the Beach rules, the Board is proposing the following actions

a. Re-publish/socialize/communicate the existing beach rules.

b. To review and update the beach rules.

Public Safety - Tom Kehoe and Phil Cuiffo, Sr.

● Bevin Seawall - Tom Kehoe

As discussed in prior minutes, there are three options:

a. Wait for a catastrophe to occur - meaning the Seawall is breached and EN residents living at or above Bevin are unable to exit by land. This is the most likely option from a timing perspective.

### Property Owners of Eaton's Neck Beach

#### Profit and Loss

January 1 - June 5, 2024

	Total
<b>Income</b>	
Beach Usage Income	425.82
Changing Tide Income	1,600.00
Interest Income - Bank	0.03
<b>Membership Income</b>	
Regular Membership Income	28,719.35
Senior Membership Income	23,549.48
<b>Total Membership Income</b>	<b>\$ 52,268.83</b>
<b>Social Income</b>	
4th July Income	758.30
Parti Gras Income	3,413.53
<b>Total Social Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,171.83</b>
Uncategorized Income	0.00
Watercraft Income	3,120.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 61,586.51</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 61,586.51</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank Charges & Fees	0.00
Beach Expenses	15,150.51
Beach Security Expense	450.00
Changing Tides Expense	2,204.39
Meeting Expenses	663.27
PayPal Fees	625.08
<b>Social Expenses</b>	
Egg Hunt Expense	437.63
Parti Gras Expense	3,947.95
Thanksgiving Turkey Trot Expense	127.28
<b>Total Social Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,512.86</b>
Software/Website Expenses	443.43
<b>Utilities</b>	
Prices Bend Utilities	297.33
Valley Grove Utilities	261.54
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$ 558.87</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 24,608.41</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 36,978.10</b>

#### Balance Sheet

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Bank Accounts	
50/50 Proceeds	640.20
Beach Infrastructure Funds - Bank Account	5,400.00
PayPal Bank	10,370.19
Petty Cash	0.00
POENB Operating Account	47,440.04
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 63,850.43</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Beach Reservation Deposit	-1,000.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>-\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 62,850.43</b>

b. Support VOA's efforts to "go it alone" - which is an operational and financial long shot since it might cost \$30 million and 10 years to execute.

c. Exert political pressure on the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) to fix the wall - Since 2015/2016, discussions between the ACOE and VOA have ceased. To move ahead, the ACOE requested that VOA (1) pay 30% of cost to build the wall and 50% of on-going maintenance costs in perpetuity and (2) provide 5 public access points to beaches in VOA

On May 15th, representatives from the Eaton's Neck

Community Working Group (ENCWG), the TOH, the VOA (Mayor Leticia), the ACOE, and the offices of SC Legislator Bontempi, NYS Assemblyman Brown, NYS Senator Mattera, US Rep. LaLota, and US Sen. Schumer met to discuss the path forward.

The public officials noted that the storm on April 3rd was a “real eye opener” and increased their sense of urgency to “fix the situation” - because while the storm wasn’t “severe,” Asharoken Avenue was closed for several hours.

Another in-person meeting among stakeholders is scheduled for July/August.

A reporter from Newsday also interviewed several POENB members about their perspectives on the Seawall. Specifically, the reporter found it curious that although nearly 2,000 people and 500 homes would be negatively impacted if the wall failed, no one has formally canvassed this constituency and asked for their input.

●**Community Watch Group - Phil Cuiffo, Sr.**  
Phil and other members of the Community Watch Group met with TOH officials about the current lack of details provided about the TOH’s use of more “high tech” solutions to monitor access and usage of Hobart Beach.

Rather than have a booth attendant, TOH residents will obtain and affix a beach permit sticker to their car. Once a day (time TBD), TOH cars with “sticker readers” will scan cars parked at Hobart. The TOH will send a ticket to the registered owner of a car parked at Hobart without the required sticker.

Phil and others questioned the feasibility of this new process since: (1) there are a limited number of TOH vehicles that have “sticker readers,” (2) heavy beach usage times may not be synchronized with sticker scanning times; and (3) cars without stickers are not asked to leave the lot immediately.

The POENB representatives also asked the TOH officials why the TOH issued beach stickers for only 4 months while the Town of Smithtown issued “year-round” beach stickers. No rationale was provided.

Historically, vandalism and trespassing at Hobart have been issues. Of the 8 beaches in the TOH, Crab Meadow is the “flagship” while Hobart is the leaky dinghy in terms of resources, amenities and attention received. Lax enforcement of existing rules has made matters worse - (1) while a tall gate exists at the entrance to Hobart, it is rarely closed and (2) violators are rarely told to stop fishing, using the beach post dusk, and sleeping at Hobart (in cars in the parking lot and/or camping the beach).



## EATON'S NECK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our community is fortunate in that we do not have heavy traffic. Truck traffic is largely for the purpose of service to homes. However, there is always a chance of an accident. There are trucks, school buses, and deer! In the event of a motor vehicle accident, occupants could be trapped in a vehicle.

In order to be prepared for this possibility the fire department routinely practices Vehicle Extraction. These are strategies and tactics which allow department members to safely remove occupants from a vehicle after a crash. The department also receives instruction in the latest practices from instructors from The Suffolk County Fire Training Academy. At training sessions EN Fire Department members are tasked with operating equipment which is specially designed to cut and pry open vehicles in order to allow the removal of motorists following an accident in which the vehicle has become misshapen and doors will not open.

A quick fire and safety reminder-- a safe space between any structure and a barbecue grill, at least three feet. Never leave a grill unattended.

Another reminder--- hurricane season is upon us and runs from June through November. PSEG LI offers guidelines on safe hurricane practices. Go on-line or check mail from the utility to make sure you are up to date on the safest strategies.

Yours for fire safety, Rich Baer

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While fishing (day or night) is expressly prohibited at Hobart, people (often at night) come from the Rockaways, the Bronx, Brooklyn and Rockland County to fish. Hobart was even identified as a “prime” fishing spot in a NY fishing magazine.

Issues at Hobart have routinely negatively impacted PB. Several members who live near PB have notified Board members, both verbally and in writing, that they’ve observed an alarming uptick in the number of trespassers at PB. Persons may be EN residents but not members or they may be non EN residents. Trespassers have been observed urinating and allowing their unleashed dogs to run and defecate freely.

A discussion ensued about action that could/should be taken to BOTH improve security at Hobart and at PB (and VG).

- One member noted that in prior years, the TOH created a paid position for a “night watchman” at Hobart.
- Another member suggested reminding TOH about the need to open and close the Hobart beach gate (at dawn and dusk respectively)
- Another suggested that POENB install a gate at both PB and VG beaches to physically prevent access by non-members.
  - if a gate was installed. If cars are used, there may also be a need for “no parking” signs in selected sections of the street near the beaches.

#### New Business - Tom Kehoe

##### ●Flooding and TOH

As discussed in the correspondence section, the Board received a letter from Andre Sorrentino, the TOH Highway Supervisor asking for permission to access the VG to assess, plan and potentially correct flooding issues. A subset of board members are reviewing the letter to understand the request and potentially provide feedback on a solution.

Members noted that several areas in EN are subject to flooding and recent TOH “fixes” have not worked once they were implemented (and may have made matters worse on selected properties).

##### ●Tick Lecture

Bob Pisacani suggested inviting Moses Cúcura (entomologist) of SC, Dept of Public Works, Division of Vector Control to talk to members about the mice, mosquito and tick population in EN and actions residents can take to avoid tick bites. Members agreed that Moses will be invited to speak at the next meeting on Wednesday, July 10, at 7 pm

#### Next Meeting

Next month’s meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

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## Eaton's Neck this is your Parade

The Eaton's Neck July 4th Parade began as a grass roots community effort back in the early 1970s when a few parents decided our unique community ought to have its own parade, then made it happen. They wrangled kids, made banners, decorated bikes, enlisted local fife and drummers and a walking duck and off to the beach they marched. There, guitars were pulled out and God Bless America was sung.

The POENB and ENFD joined in with banners and fire trucks. Blocks began building floats to showcase their pride and, of course, outdo one another. It got bigger. Themes occasionally emerged—like around the bicentennial when every Eaton's Neck kids dressed up as a different American hero. Or the year the Eaton's Neck Youth Club built a giant whale float then launched it down at Price's Bend. Epic.

Suddenly Eaton's Neck became the "it" place to be on July 4th. This did not happen because our elected officials started coming out, or a lot of new fire companies were invited to join in the celebration. It happened because the people of Eaton's Neck started something organic and cared enough about their country to take the time to creatively put their patriotism on display—regardless of who showed up.

In recent years we've transitioned somewhat from a parade of participants to a parade of observers and that has us at a turning point. If we all stand on the sidelines expecting our neighbors to do something, no one does anything. Although we tell stories of the past, this parade belongs to the young families who call Eaton's Neck home in the present. This is your parade now. The work you put in today will be the memories your children cherish tomorrow. Please do that work. Please come out and march. Don't wait for an invitation. Don't wait for someone to organize it; more than likely that person will not step forward. Brainstorm a patriotic idea with your neighbors and be proactive. Turn your truck into a D Day lander, dress up like Betsy Ross, put the family in tie-dyes and get your groove on. Be respectful of all and let's celebrate America together. Make this the year you step off the sidelines, line up on Essex at 9:30 and put your creativity and patriotism on display for Eaton's Neck to celebrate. This is your parade.



Parti Gras 2024 - Necker kids group shot!



Parti Gras 2024 - It's all about the raffle tickets!



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