

PINE KNOLL SHORES COMMISSIONERS MEETING

By Paige Gillespie

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on January 13 at 6 p.m. at town hall. There were 10 members of the public in attendance as well as four via webinar. Mayor Jones and Commissioners Fulcher, Brodman, Edwards and Goetzinger were present.

A proclamation was issued in honor and memory of Donald Brock for his many contributions to the town and its development.

Lauren Tuttle, with the Eastern Carolina Council, briefed the commissioners on stormwater infrastructure, and presented the town with hard and digital copies of the town's water infrastructure, recommendations for maintenance and public informational materials. Ms. Tuttle and Dr. Manda, from ECU, will present the Storm Water Mapping Project to the public on February 19 at town hall.

Town Manager Brian Kramer reported that the smart meter installations are continuing to go smoothly. Sonny Cunningham reported that 1,027 meters have been installed so far and that all meters should be installed by February. Mr. Kramer also reported that the repairs to the Public Safety building are more extensive than initially thought, and he requested an additional \$12,000 to cover the expenses. A motion was passed to amend the 2015-2016 budget to allocate these funds.

Mr. Kramer reported that Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) will be released in March or April. Houses built pre-FIRM, September 1978, could possibly see an increase in flood insurance rates. Houses post-FIRM will be grandfathered such that insurance rates will not change as a result of flood zone changes or base flood elevation changes unless your policy lapses. He also advised that the town is actively looking for an intern with a master's degree in Public Administration, and that efforts are being made to set up pickle ball courts in town.

Assistant Town Manager Julie Anderson advised that she attended a class about deck safety, and an "education and awareness" letter will be sent out in February covering deck safety standards and maintenance. She reported that property taxes are now past due, but that 96% of property owners have paid.

Police Chief Thompson reported that a grant application for \$24,500 would be submitted to the Governor's Crime Commission for technology upgrades to acquire new cameras for police vehicles. He also said that body cameras are now in use by all officers.

Assistant Town Clerk Sarah Williams reported that since July when we began collecting trash and recycling on the same day that recycling numbers are up and solid waste has remained neutral.

Under unfinished business, Commissioner Edwards noted that the town is looking into tree trimming, and Commissioner Brodman noted that the Strategic Plan would come up for amendment at the off-site retreat in February. The Wireless Telecommunications Ordinance did not pass and will be read again at the February or March meeting.

Under new business, a motion was passed with a vote of 3-1 supporting the Connect NC Bond Resolution, with Commissioner Fulcher dissenting. Those interested may read more about this at connect.nc.gov.

The Board of Commissioners will hold its annual off-site retreat at the Hampton Inn on February 4-5. Meetings will begin at 9 a.m. on both days, and are open to the public. The board will decide at the conclusion of the retreat if an additional meeting is needed in February.

The full minutes of Board of Commissioners meetings are included in the agenda packets that are publicly available through the calendar on the town website (townofpks.com) and are sent out via email prior to the next month's regular board meeting. If you have questions about access to the minutes, contact Town Clerk Scott Sherrill at 247-4353, ext. 11.

American Music Festival Concert

By Linda Seale

On Saturday, February 27, at 8 p.m., Magnolia Baroque will perform an all-Bach concert, which will include Cantata No. 51 for baroque trumpet and soprano, the B minor Orchestral Suite No. 2, a Trio Sonata and one of the Brandenburg concertos. Held at the History Museum of Carteret County, this is a concert not to be missed—and is dedicated to Nan Cullman, a concert patron and Beaufort resident who died in 2015.

Reserve tickets by calling 728-6152, stopping by the History Museum, or visiting the website at americanmusicfestival.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

BHA Membership Event

The Beaufort Historical Association's (BHA) Membership Drive Valentine Party has been a tradition for many years. It started in 1992 in a private home to attract new members into the association, but after a few years attendance outgrew any private home in Beaufort.

Now hosted on two acres at the Beaufort Historic Site, all of the authentically restored houses and buildings are open for members and potential members to enjoy and learn more about this area's coastal heritage.

Even better, each house or building features special refreshments for visitors to enjoy. Attendees have their own unique way of enjoying the party, whether with beer and pizza in the jail; hot cider by the fire in the Leffers Cottage; or the olive oil tasting in the Carteret County Courthouse of 1796. The most unique aspect of this party is that it is great for singles, couples, children and even pets.

Each year, in conjunction with the Valentine Party, there is a show and sale in the Mattie King Davis Art Gallery. This year's featured artists are Coleman Dance and Sally Barnes. Not only are these two women friends, but their shared love of art as well as their unique talents make them the perfect choice for the Valentine Party.

This year the Membership Drive Valentine Party will be held on Sunday, February 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., and those considering membership are invited to help celebrate the 56th anniversary of the association.

For more information, contact the Beaufort Historical Association at 728-5225, stop by the site's visitor center or visit online at beauforthistoricsite.org.

Save the Date

Join us for

THIRD THURSDAY FORUM AT FOUR

for an opportunity to hear about

Nutrition for the Ages

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 4 P.M.
PINE KNOLL SHORES TOWN HALL**

Free and Sponsored by the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee

**NEXT THIRD THURSDAY FORUM AT FOUR:
MARCH 17**