**2020 Summer Update**

Hi Neighbors!

As you all know, we have been unable to set up a formal meeting due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and per Governor Larry Hogan’s Orders. Let this mailing serve as a general notice to members of recent events including the determination by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in regards to the grant application that was submitted by Unity Landscape Design/Build on our behalf.

Previously we welcomed the below neighbors to our community:

* Thomas and Diane Solimeo, 165 Connecticut Avenue
* Jonathan and Allison Cairo, 16 Kent Avenue
* Charles and Valli Kuczynski, 21 Ohio Avenue

Since then, another new family moved into our community:

* Joe and Holly Cook, 50 Connecticut Avenue

We originally were moving the Spring General Meeting to May to align with the results of our pending Beach Restoration Grant Application. We were hoping to hold a special meeting in April to provide an opportunity to meet with key supporters and answer any questions that you may have had.

However, with the current Coronavirus Pandemic and Governor Hogan’s mandates we could not move forward with the scheduling of these two important events. As such, we would like this mailing to serve as an update to the membership and put forth as much information as possible.

Below is a quick recap from the past season, and what has transpired thus far in 2020:

1)  Election for the Board of Directors recently took place for the 2020-2021 term.  As of this time the Board of Directors consists of (7) members and they are:

* President Ted Heath tedheath@msn.com
* Vice President Jan Bickford Morrow jp.bickfordmorrow@gmail.com
* Treasurer Jinni McNulty sandybagger1@msn.com
* Secretary Brian Bennett sgtbb2001@gmail.com
* Marshall Leffew, Director xenolith2u@gmail.com
* Sarah Jensen, Director Jtsljensen@msn.com
* Shirley Jones, Director Shirley@ginns.net

2)   A Beach Renovation Project was initiated in November of 2019 and voted on and approved by the membership in February of 2020. The vote was (29) in favor and (6) against. The Kent County League of Women’s Voters performed the vote tally for our association. This project was in the works with assistance from the State of Maryland via a grant process.  Unfortunately, the recent grant application was not approved this time around. We will continue to work diligently so we can continue to try and renovate our beach as it is an asset of the community.  The Beach also adds value to our properties and not to mention recreational value. We have embedded an email from Unity in regards to the outcome of the grant application:

“Chesapeake Haven,

I just received word that DNR has finished reviewing the many applications for this year’s outcome #3 grant and your application has been denied the funding award.

 I want to thank you for your patience, willingness, and enthusiasm for making an attempt at this grant application this year. You have a worthy project, the letters of support think so too. Remember, this year was your first year attempting a very large grant application, which normally begins many months, sometimes years before the actual time of the application deadline. You’re competing with other communities and organizations who have been planning their projects years in advance. I encourage Chesapeake Haven to apply for this particular grant again, as well as seek out other grants.

It’s a highly competitive grant application as mentioned before and an application does not guarantee an award. I have a phone call setup with the DNR reviewer of your application to collect feedback notes on reasons why this application wasn’t selected for this year.

 I have a few courses of action for you all to consider:

1. Apply for Outcome #3 again in February 2021 – As a Community Association, you are eligible as an applicant to apply yourself.
2. Hire Unity to help you apply again – this time, far in advance. Fortunately, there is a lot of groundwork, concept drawings, and community engagement established as a head start. Start planning your next grant application well in advance, whether you hire Unity or a Non-profit to assist you, start early, start now.
3. Engage Shore Rivers (Non-profit) to take the reigns and apply for this grant and other grants on your behalf.
4. Engage Elk & North East Rivers Watershed Association (ENERWA) (Non-profit) to take the reins and apply for this grant and other grants on your behalf.

I have already made contact with both Shore Rivers and ENERWA about helping Chesapeake Haven. Shore Rivers has already given a verbal agreeing to consider taking over this project on behalf of Chesapeake Haven. ENERWA was interested in helping too, but they needed a lot more time in advance. I can call them on your behalf to set up a meeting to begin the process again.

I will reach back out after my conversation with DNR with feedback notes, which will help in improving your next application.

I would like to help set you up for the next round of applications and planning, but my time is limited at this point without another contract to assist in another application. I can help set up introductions between Chesapeake Haven and these non-profits mentioned, at no charge, that’s no problem.

Don’t give up, apply again. You needed this groundwork to happen whether you won or not, and now you have to keep up the momentum and plan ahead. I believe you can win this.

 Please let me know if you have any questions.

 Chris Schoenster, MLA, CBLP

 Environmental Design & Sales

Unity Landscape Design/Build”

3) Our beach is for residents & their guests only. We must insist that if you have a guest that is fishing on the beach you must accompany them. This way we will weed out any issues before they become a problem. DNR will be notified when the others are there to check for proper licensing and Cecil County Sheriff’s office will be notified for trespassers. It is a private community and Cecil County will intervene for trespassing. Let’s all work together to keep our community nice.  If you have not received a key for the beach gate, and are a member in good standing, please let us know and we will ensure that you are given (1) key and an additional band for membership identification. If you are the last ones leaving the beach and the gate is unlocked, please lock up the gate upon your departure. The gate is kept open on the nights of mosquito spraying during the season.

Contact the DNR if you feel there are fishermen in the beach area that do not belong. Contact the DNR @ 800-628-9944 and Cecil County Sheriff’s office @ 410-996-5500.

4) Mosquito spraying was delayed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The spraying recently started back up on June 24th. Please contact John Molyneux with any questions that you may have regarding this spraying.  Jemolyneux@gmail.com

5) In our previous newsletter was a form generated by Jinni McNulty requesting an updated address and email for our members.  Please fill out this form and return it to Jinni at your earliest convenience if you have not done so. If you need a new form, please let us know or email Jinni your information. Those who provide their email address will receive communications electronically instead of the US Postal Service. That is a much quicker method and helps keep the mailing costs down.

6)  Just a reminder, please keep your property boundaries adjacent to the roads cut back and free of obstacles that may interfere with travel, deliveries or emergency vehicles responding to the community.  We thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If we determine areas that are in need of attention and are not taken care of by the members, we will be forced to outsource and pay for this work to be done. Normal cutting back of overgrowth on the road sides, near stop or road signs and along the beach road is needed on a constant basis to keep our neighborhood looking great.

7) For your reference, we have enclosed a copy of the Chesapeake Haven Covenants & Restrictions. These are part of the founding governing documents for this community. the updated CHHOA ByLaws and this document are on the chesapeakehaven.com website.

8) Just as with any illegal or serious situation, the first step is to call 911 and report it. Issues with speeding, unsafe operation of any motorized vehicles, trespassing, illegal dumping and vandalism are police matters. If there is something the HOA can do to help, please let us know. We will do our best to assist if it is in our control.

9)  Please submit any questions that you may have to the board by mailing your questions to 158 Ohio Avenue, Earleville, MD  21919, by emailing them to any one of the board members or via chesapeakehaven.com.

We apologize in advance for not being able to assemble as a community for our General Meeting and hope that this Pandemic fades away soon. Everyone be safe and we look forward to the next time we can meet face to face! Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Respectfully,

Board of Directors

Chesapeake Haven Homeowners Association

Enclosures:

Covenants & Restrictions

CHHOA Budget Report