

FIRE ISLAND PINES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

AND THE PINES FOUNDATION, INC.

Minutes of meetings Sunday, November 12, 2023

**Directors participating Via Zoom:** Allan Baum; Alan Brodherson; Gary Clinton; Greg Henniger; Bill Hildebrandt; Andrew Kirtzman; Chris Mai; Charles Montorio-Archer; Anthony Pietrangolare; Nate Pinsley; Leland Rechis; Henry Robin; Russell Saray; Eric Sawyer; and Ed Schulhafer.

**Directors absent:** N/A.

**Also participating:** Karen McCutcheon (Community Manager); John Tomlin (Managing Director, Actum).

Henry Robin called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Alan Brodherson moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2023 meetings of the Boards of Directors. Motion was seconded by Charles Montorio-Archer and was unanimously approved, except by Chris Mai, who was not present for the October 6, 2023 meetings.

FIPPOA Discussion:

- Infrastructure projects
  - Fire Island Boulevard (short term)
    - Henry provided an overview of prior efforts by the Town of Brookhaven (“TOB”) to repair and maintain the boulevard.
    - After a series of meetings with TOB Highway Department personnel, additional work has begun.
    - The TOB has undertaken grading and the application of both sand and stone.
  - Fire Island Boulevard (long term)
    - The Task Force on Infrastructure and Services issued a Request for Services (“RFS”) from three engineering firms to provide us with possible long-term solutions.
    - We have selected one Firm, R&M, that has both the skillset and experience of working on Fire Island and with TOB.
      - R&M’s process may include conversations with various groups within the Community, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Fire Department and others, to better understand the needs of the Community and the issues with the current roadway condition.
      - R&M will then provide us with various potential solutions.
      - R&M will then engage on our behalf with the TOB to try to bring about a plan that meets our needs.

- Leland Rechis made a motion, which was seconded by Bill Hildebrandt, that we approve an expenditure of up to \$12,500 to retain R&M to provide us with the services outlined above.
    - After further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.
- PSE&G
  - Bill has been actively communicating with the contractor working for PSE&G.
  - At least three electric cables and one telephone cable are at risk.
  - PSE&G is currently engaged in a short-term fix.
    - 600-800 yards of sand in trap bags is being placed to protect the cables that feeds the sub-station.
  - Any long-term fix requires approvals from various levels of government, including the Seashore.
- FIPPOA PAC
  - A “red wave” on Long Island took place.
    - Ed Romaine, a Republican, prevailed in the election for Suffolk County Executive.
    - Republicans increased control of the County legislature.
    - In Brookhaven, Neil Foley, our councilman, defeated his Democratic opponent.
    - Dan Panico, also a Republican, was elected as Town Supervisor.

#### Foundation Discussion:

- Friends of Carrington
  - From Pines Party 2022, we made a challenge grant of \$10,000.
    - Friends of Carrington (“FOC”) fulfilled this with their own fundraising of \$15,000.
  - From this year’s Pines Party, we made a further grant of \$15,000, in part to show appreciation to the Seashore, which views the work of FOC favorably.
  - FOC is attempting to raise a total of \$100,000, and will then start to use those funds to complete renovations/repairs to the Cottage, and for funds to operate the Cottage.
- Seashore Defense Fund
  - Russell Saray and Karen McCutcheon are working on a fundraising appeal letter.
  - Various projects need to be undertaken now:
    - Replace “Keep off the Dune” signs.
    - Replace garbage bins that were lost to recent storms.
    - Install 2 x 4 “lane posts” the entire length of the Pines; posts will run the length of the Pines, parallel to the dune, and provide a buffer to the south of the dune that will keep vehicles from driving too close to, or parking in, the dune.
  - Next year, we will follow-up with the second part of our snow fencing initiative.
    - Almost 60% of the fencing that was recently installed is still in place.

- The remaining work entails the installation of a second row of fencing, to the south of the first row.
- The SDF currently has a balance of approximately \$100,000.
- Russell moved that the Board approve up to \$50,000 to pay for the Keep Off the Dune signs, the garbage bins and the lane posts.
  - Motion seconded by Allan Baum.
- After further conversation, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### Joint FIPPOA/Pines Foundation Topics:

- Beach
  - Henry began with a brief history of prior efforts to place sand on the beach.
    - Our primary objective is to get the Army Corps to reverse its prior decision not to provide emergency repairs.
    - Our secondary objective is to obtain approval by the Army Corps for us to engage in our own project, at our cost, but piggy-backing upon their permits.
  - Henry explained that the initial efforts to obtain publicity and to lobby public officials, while successful, grew to a point where the continuing efforts are beyond the skillset of the Board, and that we have hired Actum, a firm with experience in PR and lobbying, to advise us.
  - We have partnered with Seaview in the retention of Actum.
  - Andrew Kirtzman gave an overview of recent PR and lobbying efforts and introduced John Tomlin, a Managing Director of Actum.
  - John gave a description of the strategy being pursued.
    - We have been emphasizing a concern for the safety of the community – the current state of the beach makes it difficult, if not impossible, for neighboring communities to provide mutual aid in the event of a fire.
    - Actum is also highlighting the Pines’ importance to LGBTQ+ history and the potential loss of that history if the Pines were to be destroyed.
    - They are engaging with federal, state and local governmental officials.
    - They are also actively engaged in obtaining media coverage.
      - There was a recent story in Vice; one pending in The Advocate, another in Washington Blade.
      - There is an upcoming press conference.
- Next Meeting (via Zoom) – January 7, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.