

Ocean Beach Shores Club

General Membership Meeting

May 29, 2021

Call to Order: Tom Hungrige, President followed by Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for Club Members lost over this past year: Sue Monsell, Fred Aligieri, Rich Stravach, Ricky Pfaff and Linda Serafin and to consider the remembrance of those in our country's service who lost their lives defending it.

Roll Call: Present: Tom Hungrige, Joe Klenner, Matt Giordano, Mike Serafin and Bill Reinhold
Absent: Pat Smith, Ron Frister

No Minutes from Fall 2020 since no meeting held

No Communications

Financial Report: Matt Giordano. Actual budget for 2021 to be sent out after meeting.

Matt briefly went over the current budget to date: Membership dues remained FLAT from 2020 to 2021 with an assessment of \$40/household for additional items required for beach. Marina fees remained the same for members, and went up slightly for non-members. Expenses saw an increase due to increase to salaries and the need for new uniforms and other items for the guards. Other fees remained mostly flat with no new projects for 2021.

Membership: Joe Klenner. Joe thanked Matt for his great job this year and his attendance at his first meeting after the lull due to the pandemic. Joe continued to address the past year with positivity and humor and a revision to the words of New York New York to fit 2020 which was all met with good humor and applause.

Comments concerning membership: Dues & assessments were addressed by Matt. Thank you to everyone who had paid their dues and assessments in a timely manner. Dues in bank to date \$32,040, Assessments \$3,760 = total \$35,800. There are a few checks collected in pending status not reflected in this count. New Directory available at front desk. New members are Trish Capitelli (245), Elsie Martell (225), Eileen & Guy Lissak (28), Tim & Alexandra Purnell (264) Manny & Kim Ramirez (124) and Dave & Diane Shelcusky (214). Joe also reminded members to take badges for any friends and neighbors that were not able to attend the meeting.

Rentals – sees a lot of members renting this year. 2021 is an 11 week season. So far we have \$540 deposited in this account. Badges sold help offset expenses for Lifeguards Included in the rental packets are badges as well as an insert with the Club Rules, Covid rules (much less this year) and curfew imposed by Toms River & Lavallette for youths under the age of 18. They must be accompanied by an parent or legal guardian between the hours of 10 pm and 5 am.

Please look at the back of the agenda for Recycling and garbage schedule for the summer season.

Thank you to John Wagner (232) for helping secure the Firehouse for the meeting, Neil & Michelle Bickford (137) for manning the desk for the meeting and Sue Lambariello (48) for maintaining the website.

Reminder that the Kittiwake Firehouse is running a raffle and then a Breakfast fundraiser on July 11. Please participate and help their cause.

Beach: Joe Soporowski, Lifeguard Captain. Joe went thru the guidelines picked up at front desk. Let people know that we have broken away from the TriBeach union. He had been asked to supervise their guards to get them up to OBSC standards, but that has now ended.

OBSC will have 6 guards this year including Joe. Two are O'Gradys who are part of both OBSC and Sunset Manor.

OBSC is part of the US Lifeguard Safety Association which has been abandoned by other associations on the island due to the strict requirements. Joe personally got certified to teach Advance First Aid this winter. The guards are all certified in Basic Life Support (CPR), advanced First Aid, emergency Oxygen a& Bloodborne Pathogens.

OBSC beach is to the LEFT of the beach entrance. We hold the line with Monterey. Please wear your badges to insure OBSC members ONLY are on our beach. Also, please stay within the OBSC green flags to insure our guards are the first responders if you are in distress.

NEW for 2021 – Bay beach will be OPEN on rough days and manned by guards when possible.

Reminders: If you are in distress in the water, tap the top of your head as the signal for help. Also, for lost children, please approach the lifeguard stand with a description of child, time when last seen, any other pertinent information. Guards will search our beach and radio the others with this info. In the event of no visual, Code Red could be issued that will require everyone comes out of the ware so the guards can search the water for possible water rescue. Note: that 99.9% of the time, the child is home, but our guards are prepared to search the beaches and water.

Beach usage: Guards try to work the beach to allow for multiple activities based on water and weather conditions – fishing, surfing, skim boarding. Please be understanding if you cannot be accommodated or of the accommodations made on any particular day.

Beach Closings are for Health Department purposes requiring Health department permission to reenter, or lightning/thunder requiring 20 minute evacuation of the beach from the last thunder or lightning strike noted. Please wear badges in the event of rough water requiring limited water access. Bay could be open in this situation. Beware of sea nettles and Jelly fish in the bay.

Guards will be participating in tournaments this year as well as hosting a tournament at OBShores. This will be funded by a t-shirt fundraiser sponsored by the guards. Please support this fundraiser.

Please help the guards keep the beach clean by disposing of your beach garbage in the provided receptacles. Please do NOT leave broken chairs, umbrellas or household garbage in these receptacles. Please encourage guests and renters to do the same.

Guards will be hosting Junior guards if there is enough interest. Also, some guards will be providing private lessons at the bay for a fee. OBSC asks that the guards sign waivers of liability for use of Club property.

Pat Wagner (232) asked if the Guards would be enforcing NO Smoking rule. Joe equated to No Ball Playing Rule. Makes certain it is not bothering anyone. If it is, he will ask them to put smoke out or move up wind. He practices diplomacy.

Mike O'Sullivan (121) asked if Joe was keeping tab on the shark report for the area and thanked Joe for his many years of service.

Tom Hungrige then read the Beach Report from Trustee Dr. Pat Smith and added his thanks to John & Irene Piret for use of their driveway to store the lifeguard stand. It should be moved in about 2 weeks. 2021 season will be June 19 thru September 6. Remember to hang left at the end of the walkway to be on OBSC beach. Events and updates can be seen on the Beach Board at the beach entrance. Please ask the guards should you need wheelchair assistance to enter the beach. Finally, do NOT park in Ocean Hut parking lot when you come to the beach.

Bob Felle (117) asked if the lifeguard cutter would be off-shore again this summer. Response was that was accomplished by Joe (who had already left). [I didn't get the remark about the "lifeguard cutter so assume you have the quote as was.]

Buildings & Grounds: Mike Serafin. Currently two major projects on the street. No outside work from June 15 thru September 7. No work on Sundays.

Club has hired Acme Towing again to remove cars from the street. Phone numbers are on the signs at the beginning of Ocean and Bay portions of street. Automatic towing after 9 pm.

Note that Toms River permits are required for fences, outdoor showers, driveway curb cuts and pavers over 150 square feet of ground coverage. Please present permit with your Club application.

Jersey Shore & For-shore weed control are doing most of the weed contracts on the street if you are looking for a company. Maintenance on Club property began this Wednesday with painting/refinishing of benches, marina and bulkhead deck tops, boxes, etc. Traffic barrels were set up in our street to as reminders of speed limits.

Marina: Bill Reinhold. All slips are rented for 2021 with 9 requests on a waiting list. \$25,050 of slip fees collected to date with checks pending. Balances due are still forthcoming. Some damage to marina docks 18 and 19 was noted and addressed by B&G. Fees for 2021 are \$900 for Non-members and \$750 for members. 7 members are currently in the OBSC slips.

Nominating Committee: Tom Hungrige. Four Trustee positions are up for election. Tom asked for a volunteer to head the nominating committee. Greg Canniff (202) volunteered.

Other Matters:

Darlene Pereksta (207) noted that the renters at 269 were taking over the entire bay beach as their own and questioned why we would protect a beach just for them. Also noted that they park in the circle. Suggested that a fence to delineate 269 from beach be erected.

Susan Lambariello (48) concurred that even small motorized crafts were being launched from that beach which is not allowed by the Coast Guard. Suggested that this matter be brought to John McDonough since the opportunity for him to bear the liability for the bay beach was offered to him and was passed on. He should be willing to help keep his renters from using it as their own.

Lynda Fricchione (266) Commented that Sunset Manor uses our beach. Tom Hungrige responded that they own a portion of the beach and that there is an agreement since our children use their playground.

Janet DeBenedett (208) Commented that OBSC used to have their own playground until a Board decided the liability was too great. Requested equipment similar to Monterey be considered. Mike Serafin noted that the amount of beach has changed from then until now. That in a good high tide, the entire OBSC portion of the Bay Beach is under water. There is really nowhere to put a playground.

Special Meeting: Tom Hungrige. Announced that the special meeting concerning a vote discussed during zoom meeting would be Saturday, June 26 from 10am until 12pm.

Darlene Pereksta (207) objected to the timing of the meeting in the middle of the summer and requested the Fall. Also questioned the legality of changing a deed restriction and the right of the Board to suggest the vote. Felt strongly that if an individual wanted to have the garage capability of some of the Bay Block and Ocean Front, they should bear the cost of a lawsuit. Stated that after Sandy, the Club had to alter the deed restriction to comply with law. That this vote was the equivalent of the governor presenting a vote to secede from the US that passes with 2/3 vote super majority without consideration of law. Stated that there is more involved then just approaching the judge and that it would require a lawsuit.

Susan Lambariello (48) Commented that the original lawsuit was not to change the deed restriction, but to define what was meant by one-story. Also commented that the original definition accommodated any discrepancy between the Club and Toms River code in its language. There was no need to change the definition to have people build legally. The decision to pursue the 4 feet above BFE was made by the Board solely to accommodate the insurance height suggestions thru FEMA for best rates and help the Club members affected. Toms River Code requires 2 feet above base flood elevation. John Mc Donough, John Piret and Board worked to make certain that the people affected would have best possible rates.

Further discussion between Board and Darlene Pereskta. Questioned what would prevent the Club from voting to alter the interior height restriction. No response noted. Also discussion concerning petition representing 1/3 of Club not wanting this vote to move forward. Matt Giordano stated that the actual petition with signatures was not provided. Darlene stated that she would have Kathy O'Brien (220) submit that proof to the Board.

Meeting was agreed to be moved to the Saturday after the Fall Meeting.

Bonnie Lanza (52) made a motion to stop discussion until Special Meeting. Bob Felle (117) seconded motion.

Tom Hungrige asked for a motion to close the meeting. Motion made by Ed Coogan (19) and seconded by Jack Otterbein (35)

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lambariello, sitting in for Secretary, Ron Frister May 29, 2021

2021 SUMMER SAFETY GUIDELINES - OB SHORES LIFEGUARDS

Your Lifesaving Staff

Captain Joe Soporowski is a 40+yr. lifeguard, a 35yr. Beach Patrol Supervisor, and a Health and Safety Institute (HSI) Instructor. He holds a doctoral degree from Rutgers, is a former Science Teacher and Public School Administrator, and currently serves as CEO for Sustainable Education Associates. Co-Captain, Jake Mara is a 7-yr. veteran, serving 2 of those years as Senior Guard for the Oceans Four Beach Patrol. He is a Rowan graduate working towards a Masters in Forensic Pharmaceutical Sciences. Aspiring nurse, Lieutenant Jo O'Grady (4th yr.) is an Honors Program Graduate of OCC majoring in Public Health at Kean University. At 17 years of age, Ellison O'Grady (2nd yr.) is already a matriculated sophomore studying mathematics at OCC where she serves as President of the school's Philosophy Club. Nick Santosuosso (1st yr.), a long-time Ocean Beach Shores Club (OBSC) resident, is a sophomore Business Major at Penn State. Local "Waterman" Luc Thomas (1st yr.) is an Honors Student at Mount Olive HS where he excels in Soccer and Track.

Lifeguard Training

Every member of your OBSC Lifeguard Staff participates in one of the most rigorous lifesaving training programs in the state. Our training plan is approved by the most stringent certifying agency in the country, the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA). Captain Joe was instrumental in designing the area's first USLA Manual in 1995. The document is still used today as a model for other beaches. All of the guards are HSI certified in Basic Life Support (CPR/AED), Advanced First Aid, Emergency Oxygen, and Bloodborne Pathogens. Also included in the USLA's 100-hour training program are lifesaving skills such as running, swimming, rowing, paddling, kayaking, etc.

Back to the "Country Club" Vibe!

While continuing to serve as our Beach Patrol Captain, for the past 2 years Joe had agreed to assist the 3 associations to our South (Tri-Beach) by supervising and training their lifesaving staff. This system provided for additional properly trained lifeguards in emergency situations and allowed everyone to enjoy a much larger recreational area. This summer we will be returning to our private "County Club" vibe. To minimize the possibility of our guards having to rely on other beach patrols that may not possess adequate skills or training, we will have 4 lifeguards on duty every day (not just weekends). This 4-person staff will also allow our guards to ensure that only OBSC patrons and their guests are setting up on our beach. To help our guards prevent encroachment on to our beach, please wear a badge at all times.

What Do I Do If I Need Help in the Water?

The universal signal that our guards use to indicate that they need help in the water is to pat their heads. The guards are so used to this sign that if you do the same they will be right out to help. Calling for help, if possible, is not a bad idea either!

Lost Child/Person

A lost child is a very common occurrence. Using radio communication and a public address system, your lifeguards work in cooperation with neighboring beaches to locate and reunite lost children with their families. In the event that you cannot find your child, do not panic. Go immediately to the nearest lifeguard stand and be prepared to give a full description of your child and the time and place of their last known location. If a person is wearing a badge, returning them to OBSC becomes simple!

Code Red

Your lifeguards work in cooperation with nearby beaches in the event of potentially submerged victims. During a “Code Red,” all swimmers must clear the water so that our guards may provide assistance to the rescue, or so rescue diving can commence in the area.

Where Can I Do What?

Weather and water conditions are constantly changing and OBSC cannot establish set places and times for all activities, however, the following guidelines should help: Green (normal) or yellow (caution) flags designate the OBSC Swim/Raft area. It is important to understand that our lifeguards CANNOT be responsible for monitoring the water of neighboring beaches so be sure to enjoy the water ONLY WITHIN THE OBSC GUARDED AREA! Although OBSC is a relatively small, private beach club, the lifesaving staff will do its best to coordinate activities (rafting, fishing, skim boarding, etc.) to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the beach. OBSC does not normally permit surfing or wave riding with kayaks in our guarded area. Whenever possible, however, a variety of activities will be permitted as long as conditions allow a designated area for those activities to be conducted safely.

Does the Beach Ever Close?

Although the ocean beach is officially open 9:30am-5:30pm, there are several instances in which the beach will be closed. Inclement weather or extremely rough surf may result in the temporary closure of the beach for swimming. Often times, lifeguards will be stationed at the end of the walkway during such conditions. In severe weather, guards may not be present. In the event of lightning, all persons must clear the water and beach. Again, guards will close the beach until conditions permit it's reopening. Finally, in the event that environmental water conditions fall below acceptable health department standards, the beach will be closed until further notice. Whenever the beach is closed, the red flag will be flown on the flagpole.

Lifeguard Tournaments & Competitions

Even though the OBSC staff is tiny in comparison, we will be competing against the larger area beaches at the local lifeguard competitions. We also plan to host our own tournament this summer. Please come out and support your guards! For more information, see Captain Joe.

Please Help Us Keep Your Beach Clean

Every morning the lifeguards walk the beach and pick up any trash that is left there during the night. Garbage and recycling cans are placed by the walkway in order to provide patrons a place to put small items of trash. Please do not use these receptacles to dispose of household garbage or other large items such as broken beach chairs, umbrellas, excessive food waste, etc. OBSC has no dumpster and if patrons abuse the receptacles, the trash can accumulate in an unsightly and unhealthy manner.

Junior Guard Program, Surfing & Swim Lessons

We plan to continue our Junior Guard Program this Summer as long as there are youngsters up to the challenge and willing to dedicate their time. Individual Surfing and Swim Lessons are also available. See Captain Joe for more information.

Questions / Comments?

Anytime you have questions or comments regarding the lifeguards or related issues, feel free to see or contact Captain Joe Soporowski at 732-575-7359 or jsoporowski@gmail.com.

**FORGET YOUR TROUBLES, FORGET YOUR CHORES, IT'S ALWAYS
A BEAUTIFUL DAY AT OB SHORES!**



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