



## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2016

### Message from the Mayor and Council

Hurray! Spring is here and the town withstood the winter storms of 2015/2016. We suffered three major flood events after the winter storm season began a month early! The first was a nor'easter that hit in early October causing minor flooding throughout town. Slaughter Beach Road was impassable at high tide and Route 36 was closed for several days. Although we lost several feet of beach and much of our protective dunes, the timing of the storm could not have been more providential. The October nor'easter forced Hurricane Joaquin, a level 3 storm that was heading up the Atlantic coast, to veer out to sea.

Nor'easter Jonas hit on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and was quickly followed by another storm on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Overwashes and breaches appeared in several places with the most devastating occurring in the southernmost part of town. Harry Ward, our Mayor, was in daily contact with the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center during the January storm. If the situation worsened and the winds did not shift as predicted, he was prepared to request assistance for an emergency evacuation.

After the January storm several responsible homeowners reacted quickly. Within days they applied for and received a DNREC permit to proceed and hired contractors to bulldoze sand, repair the breaches and rebuild the dune fronting their properties.

The Council has been working diligently to protect the town. An emergency Council meeting was held on January 25, 2016 to assess damages, and we began on-going discussions with federal, state and county authorities. At February's meeting, the Council authorized up to \$50,000 in town infrastructure funds to repair the worst of the damage and begin the cleanup process. Subsequently, DNREC agreed to assist us and scraped the beach to recover as much sand as possible. This is, however, a short term solution.

The Council continues to work with federal, state and county officials to locate adequate funding to rebuild the dune system, our long-term solution. **We are actively seeking volunteers who can help us build and maintain relationships with our congressional delegation and state legislators to aid in that process. Please contact Mayor Harry Ward if you're interested in serving on an outreach committee.**

The increasing frequency and intensity of coastal storms has made us ever more conscious of the need to consider the safety of our residents. To this end, we are working on an Emergency Operations plan, a Safety and Evacuation plan, and are working closely with the Sussex County Emergency Management Agency as the County updates its' All Hazard Mitigation Plan.

We encourage all residents to provide the Town office with an accurate email address. The Town employs email as a vehicle to keep our residents informed about emergency notifications, to get real-time safety information to residents before, during and after a storm event, or to disseminate information about town events. Please sign up at [slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net](mailto:slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net).

The Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS) is a system designed to notify Delaware residents of an emergency in their area. The Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, along with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, encourages residents who exclusively use mobile telephones to register their numbers in this statewide database. To register your mobile telephone or VOIP phone, log onto <http://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF1D885328BF>.

### Resilient Community Partnership

In early January the Town submitted a proposal to the Delaware Coastal Programs office for consideration for DCP's first-ever "Resilient Community Partnership" grant. The purpose of the grant is to leverage up to \$75,000 in



federal funds to assist one community in Delaware to become more resilient. We knew we would face stiff competition from much larger towns such as Wilmington, New Castle and South Bethany, but happily we prevailed and were informed in early February that we had been selected as DCP's 2016 community partner. We are very excited about working with DCP and believe that we will become a much stronger community with their assistance.

DCP will hold outreach meetings on weekends throughout the year for community input. The first outreach meeting will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company, located at 359 Bay Avenue. Community involvement is essential in completing the first step in moving toward resiliency – the completion of a vulnerability assessment study. It is only through community involvement that DCP will gain a better understanding of our vulnerabilities. DCP scientists and planning staff will help to determine and assess abatement strategies. The study will provide us with an estimation of costs and help us prioritize next steps. Finally, DCP will assist us with finding grants to achieve our goals. When we have completed the program, we will have a roadmap delineating next steps. We will keep you informed as the project progresses.

**July 4th Regatta** – The Slaughter Beach Sail Club is once again hosting the 9th annual Independence Day Regatta. Kickoff festivities are scheduled to start at 9:00 AM at Delaware Avenue, North.

**Memorial Volunteer Fire Company** – Congratulations to Robert Wechtenhiser, the recently elected President of the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company.

Mark your calendars for June 19<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day. The Ladies Auxiliary will serve breakfast at the fire hall from 8:00 AM to 12 noon. Purchase tickets at the door.

**Yard Sale** – The annual Memorial Day town yard sale is scheduled for Friday, May 28th through Monday, May 30, 2016. The event will be advertised in a local newspaper and on the Town website.

The Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary will hold a fundraiser on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Food will be served from 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM. It's our

opportunity to not only grab some delicious meals but to support our Fire Company!

In addition, the Ladies Auxiliary will rent indoor tables at \$10.00 per table and provide setup space in the engine room. Please contact Diane O'Hara at (302) 245-4998 if interested.

**Annual Large Item Pickup** – Large Item Pickup will be on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Place items next to your regular trash. Any items containing refrigerant (refrigerators, freezers, A/Cs) must bear an official tag stating that the refrigerant has been removed.

**Community Social Hour** – The first Friday of June, July, August and September residents will have the opportunity to socialize and meet other residents. Bring an appetizer, drink or snack for the table. Come one, come all at 5 PM at the town pavilion!

**DuPont Nature Center (DNC)** – The Nature Center is a wonderful place to visit, especially with children or grandchildren. Saturday, May 21st they will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace, Love and Horseshoe Crab Festival from 10 AM to 3 PM. Mark your calendars for some fun! You can sign up to volunteer by calling (302) 422-1329.

**Delaware Nature Society (DNS)** – DNS provides educational programs at the Marvel Salt Marsh Preserve to educate schoolchildren about the diverse environments and wildlife habitats in our town. The town is partnering with DNS to design and build a boardwalk and observation deck for these educational programs.

**Council Meetings** – We welcome and encourage all town residents to attend our Town Council meetings, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company. The access door is on the south side of the building. The Annual Town meeting will be held on Saturday, June 4th at the fire hall at 12 noon.

**Election Information** – The Town Council seats held by Amy Parker, Bob Wood and Kathy Lock are up for election. Each seat is for a term of two years. If you are interested in running for office please file a Notice of Intent with accompanying affidavit that you meet the



qualifications for office. This form must be filed at the town office located at 357 Bay Ave. Please request a form by either calling (302) 424-7659 or by emailing [townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net](mailto:townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net). The deadline for filing will be included in the Notice of Solicitation of Candidates that will be published by the Town in the coming weeks. If more than one person files for each open seat, an election will take place on July 2nd at the fire hall. Polls will be open from 8:00 AM to 12 noon.

#### Qualifications for office:

- be at least 21 years of age
- not have been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude
- be a citizen of the United States as of July 2, 2016
- have been either domiciled in Slaughter Beach or a freeholder (property owner) in Slaughter Beach since January 2, 2016

#### Voter Qualifications:

Any person shall be qualified to vote who, on the date of the election:

- Is a United States citizen
- Is eighteen (18) years of age or older
- Has for not less than thirty (30) consecutive days preceding the date of the election, been either
  - (a) a freeholder in the town (defined as a natural person\* who holds title to or a life estate, in and real property located within the Town boundaries)

**OR**

  - (b) has been domiciled in the Town. ('defined as physically residing in town and has his/her true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment in the town of Slaughter Beach)

\*Please note that if property ownership is held by an LLC, corporation, or other similar artificial entity, the property is not held by a "natural person" and individuals with an ownership interest in the LLC, corporation, or other similar entity would not qualify to vote as freeholders. However, those individuals might qualify to vote if they are domiciled in town.

The most recent Sussex County Property Tax records available as of May 1<sup>st</sup> shall be considered proof of address for all individuals identified in those records as Slaughter Beach property owners (FREEHOLDERS.) A Supplemental List of Property Owners will be created for those property owners not on the Sussex County Property Tax records who can provide the Town with proof of address. Both lists shall be available for review by Slaughter Beach property owners. Property owners may submit a request to the Town via telephone or electronic mail to ascertain whether or not they are listed on the Sussex County Property Tax records or the Supplemental List of Property Owners. All individuals will be required to provide proof of identity to vote at the election. Please refer to the Town website for additional information regarding voting and for a list of the documents that will serve to identify each voter.

#### Absentee Ballots:

Any individual wishing to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot by filing an affidavit of qualifications with the Town no later than 12:00 PM (noon) July 1st. Absentee ballots may be requested through the town website, or by writing to the Town at 357 Bay Ave, Slaughter Beach, DE 19963-4909, or by telephone at (302) 424-7659, or by sending an email to [townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net](mailto:townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net). Individuals who have requested an absentee ballot will not be permitted to vote by machine on the day of the election.

### Town Officials

<i>Mayor</i>	Harry Ward	(302) 422-0894	<i>Councilperson</i>	Amy Reed Parker	(302) 422-5814
<i>Vice Mayor</i>	Bill Krause	(610) 812-2306	<i>Tax Collector</i>	Angela Tibbitt	(302) 424-1127
<i>Secretary</i>	Bob Wood	(443) 845-6509	<i>Building Inspector</i>	Bob Clendaniel	(302) 270-0687
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kathy Lock	(302) 422-5234	<i>Town Clerk</i>	Kathy McFadden	(302) 424-3925