

**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2022**

# Message from the Mayor and Council

The Slaughter Beach Town Council wishes to welcome you to the 2022 summer season. This past year has seen so many interesting happenings. The recent lessening of the Covid spread seems to be bringing the community to our “new normal”.

The fall and winter of 2021/2022 seemed to dish out plenty of obstacles for our community to navigate, starting with the “October storm" which continued to alter our dune line. This storm was followed by the “Easter Monday Storm”. Much of the beach saw significant beach erosion and tall escarpments. The Town Council worked diligently with DNREC to attempt to mitigate this situation and DNREC came through and recently placed approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sand between the southern end of Bay Avenue up through approximately 277 Bay Avenue, which were where some of the most significant escarpments were located. DNREC was solely responsible for both this sand funding and placement of the sand. We continue to work with DNREC and our federal government partners to locate funding and implement a significant dune replenishment for all the southern end of Slaughter Beach. DNREC’s staff also provided and planted beach grass along much of the beach front where sand replenishment occurred.

We are incredibly proud to report some significant progress in many fronts and great news this year:

1. The low inventory of real estate and the nationwide price increases have certainly been reflected in our community. Prices are up and we have seen a bit of a construction boom throughout Slaughter Beach. We welcome our new neighbors!
2. The town purchased a significant amount of beach grass which volunteers planted in many areas along the beach in early Spring.

Beach grass has a significant impact on beach sand retention, especially south of the fire hall where it was most needed.

1. The Town is working on many fronts with many entities on projects such as the SHORRE act, Delaware Bay Working Group, and the recently completed University of Delaware Hydrology study. Please follow the progress of these during the year at our monthly Town Council meetings.
2. We continue to see far less trash on the beach and in all the public areas throughout our community. Our thanks to the sponsors and volunteers of the ‘Adopt-A-Highway' cleanup, as well as to the many people who participate daily in picking up beach trash and the official Annual Coastal Cleanup every September.
3. Again, this year, the Osprey returned in force before the end of March. So far, we have located more than 6 nests within Slaughter Beach and the immediate vicinity. A couple of the best viewing opportunities are at the Boardwalk in the 500 block of Bay Avenue and at Dupont Nature Center at the end of Lighthouse Road.
4. We continue to see high numbers of visitors at the boardwalk. Typically, we see close to 10,000 yearly visitors which highlights just how valuable Slaughter Beach is to our area and the local environment.
5. In the summer of 2021, the Town Council voted to allow Sussex County to create a sewer district, specifically for Slaughter Beach. In turn, Sussex County voted to implement a sewer district for our Town. The next months will see capital funding efforts progress, as well as bidding and assignment of an entity to manage the sewer district. Tune in to the monthly Town Council meetings for updates on this significant project.
6. Our Town’s financial position continues to move forward very positively, with a strong balance sheet and additional “rainy day” funds in our general fund. The auditor’s report came back with an excellent rating. We encourage all to attend the yearly Town Meeting and monthly Council meetings for more details.
7. We are continuing our work on emergency contact information for all homeowners and extend thanks to all of you that have sent your current information to [slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net.](mailto:slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net)

## 357 Bay Avenue / Slaughter Beach DE 19963-4911 / [www.slaughterbeach.delaware.gov](http://www.slaughterbeach.delaware.gov/)

The Council would like to offer our sincere thanks to the many volunteers and staff that contribute to the welfare of this Town. Our volunteers spend countless hours on pavilion beautification, Coastal Cleanup, highway cleanup and beach grass planting along the dunes – these and so many other efforts make Slaughter Beach a wonderful place to live. Please contact any Town Council member to participate. Remember that our little piece of paradise is almost 100% supported by volunteers, from the Council to all of you who so willingly donate your time. Again, this year, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the dedicated men and women of the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company. We recognize and acknowledge our good fortune in having such an amazing group of first responders dedicated to helping keep our community safe.

# Memorial Fire Company

Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company wishes to thank the town residents for their support this past year and will again be offering a fire safety class this summer. In addition to their hard work for our benefit, the fire company is now host to the Auxiliary Coast Guard - this group is offering annual vessel safety checks - May 28, 2022 at the firehouse parking area as well as at the boat launch off Lighthouse Road. Another generous act on behalf of the fire company is that they are now hosting meetings and contributing materials for the Slaughter Beach Historical Society.

# American Recovery Act Funds

The town has received approximately $130,000 in two installments from the federal program known as the American Recovery Act (ARPA). These funds must be spent within two years or returned to the U.S. Treasury. The Council has several projects slated to be implemented utilizing these (primarily) infrastructure-oriented funds.

# Statewide Property Tax Re-Assessment

In 2021, Sussex County began a court ordered reassessment of all properties in the county. The re-assessment process is being conducted by Tyler Technologies, nationally recognized experts, which will survey approximately 182,000 properties over a 3-year period. The new values are being set at what is projected to be the fair market value of each property (ie; the amount the property can be sold for) as of July 1, 2023. For more details, go to the https://sussexcountyde.gov/assessment.

# Sussex County Rebate of Realty Transfer Tax (RTT) Funds

The Town has received a one-time rebate of approximately $100,000 from Sussex County to be used solely for infrastructure projects. The use of these funds will be determined in future council meetings.

# Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network (WIIN)

Slaughter Beach has joined with several partners to form a coalition to study the economic benefits derived from the Mispillion and Cedar Creek watersheds. This coalition was awarded several grants totaling more than $275,000 to perform a stakeholder-led management plan to protect these natural resources and to identify benefits and values that might accrue to the local economy through increased eco-tourism. The coalition is made up of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, UD’s Delaware Sea Grant, the Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL), the City of Milford, the Town of Slaughter Beach, Delaware Nature Society, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, Sussex County, DNREC, and Pew Charitable Trusts. This coalition of partners calls itself the Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network, or WIIN. Please keep up with progress on this coalition, monthly through the Town Council meetings.

# Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS)

Please be aware that the Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS) is a State-wide 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, encourage residents who exclusively use mobile telephones to register their numbers in this state-wide database. To register your mobile telephone or VOIP phone, log onto https://dema.delaware.gov/ onlineServices/index.shtml?dc=dens.We also encourage residents to tune into DELDOT’s radio notification system at 1380 AM for current State-wide storm and traffic conditions. *PLEASE NOTE*, if you do not allow tracking on your mobile device, you will not receive public safety messages.

# The 4th Annual Walk/Run 5K

The town will host the fourth annual 5K run/walk on Sunday, September 19, 2022. Runners will start at 9:00 a.m. at the firehouse and continue north along Bay Avenue, make the turn at Beach Plum and return to the parking area across from the firehouse. There will be trophies and all participants are supplied Tshirts and a packed lunch. All proceeds will go to the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company. Registration details are online at [www.TriSportsEvents.com.](http://www.TriSportsEvents.com/) Last year we were able to donate approximately $14,000 to the Memorial Fire Company, directly from this event.

Please be aware that traffic on Bay Avenue from the firehouse north to approximately Beach Plum will be impacted during the run/ walk (from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon). Your patience with the event is appreciated.

We are always in need of volunteers to assist with the water station, set-up and tear-down. Please contact Julia Geha, our town manager for volunteer opportunities, or consider becoming a sponsor. Sponsorship packages can be found on the town’s website.

# Annual Town-Wide Yard Sale

The annual Memorial Day town-wide yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 29, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. The event will be advertised in a local newspaper and on the town website.

# Annual Large Item Pickup

Large Item Pick-up is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2022. 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. **NO** construction related material will be collected (lumber, old windows/doors, etc).

# Yard Pruning Drop-off

We will be placing one large dumpster on selected beach access roads on the last weekend of every month from May through October to collect yard waste, ONLY - leaves, branches, etc. If we find that trash or other debris is placed at or near the dumpster, we will not be able to offer this service in the future.

The schedule and placement of the roll-off dumpsters are as follows - keep in mind, delivery can be Friday night or early Saturday morning:

May 27th - May 31st at Bridgeham June 24th – June 27th at W Virginia July 29th - August 1st at Evans August 26th - August 29th at Simpson

Sept 30th - October 3rd at Delaware Ave., North Oct 28th – October 31st at Sussex

# Delaware Nature Society (DNS)

DNS provides educational programs at the Marvel Salt Marsh Preserve to educate school children about the diverse environments and wildlife habitats in our town.

# Slaughter Beach Historical Society

We are happy to announce that the town now has a Slaughter Beach Historical Society, (SBHS) which is a non-profit corporation with the goal of preserving our local history for future generations. SBHS has compiled historical events dating back to the 1600's and is currently recording local history as reported by residents whose families go back multiple generations. This history will be shared with all through the development of the SBHS website. If interested, contact [SBHistory.committee@gmail.com.](mailto:SBHistory.committee@gmail.com)

# Pets

As our town continues to be more and more attractive to visitors and we find many who bring their pets to the beach. The vast majority of visitors and property owners keep their animals on leash and pick up after them. We have seen an uptick in people that don't pick up after their pets and since we all want a clean environment to live and play, please respect the public spaces.

# Council Meetings

We welcome and encourage all town residents to attend our Town Council meetings, held the *2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.* Council meetings will be held both electronically & in person on the lower floor of the Memorial Fire Company at

359 Bay Avenue. Homeowners and residents who have provided updated contact information for electronic notifications, will receive sign-on information one week prior to each meeting.

The annual town meeting will be held on *Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the fire hall at 10:00 a.m*.

# Election Information

The three Town Council seats held by Acting Mayor, Bob Wood; the Vice Mayor position - currently open; and the Treasurer, Joanne Plescia all expire this year. 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 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 is *Friday, June 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.* If more than one person files for each open seat, an election will take place on July 2, 2022 at the fire hall - polls will be open from 8:00 AM to 12 noon.

# Qualifications for office

* You must be at least 21 years of age;
* You can not have been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude;
* Be a citizen of the United States as of July 2, 2021;
* Have been either domiciled in Slaughter Beach or a freeholder (property owner) in Slaughter Beach since June 2, 2022.

# Voter Qualifications

* Any person shall be qualified to vote who, on the date of the election
* Is a United State 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 freeholder in the town (defined as a natural person who holds title to or a life estate in real property located within the Town boundaries);

**OR**

* + Has physically resided in town and has his/her 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, or similar, would not qualify to vote. However, if owners are domiciled in town, they may qualify to vote.

The most recent Sussex County Property Tax records available as of May 1, 2022, shall be considered proof of ownership for all individuals requesting recognition as property owners (FREEHOLDERS). For questions please contact the town office prior to the election at (302) 424-7659.

# Absentee Ballots

Any individual wishing to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot by completing and returning an affidavit of qualifiations with the Town no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) June 23, 2022. Absentee ballots may be requested through the town website by writing, calling or emailing the town office (see below). Individuals that requested absentee ballots will not be permitted to vote by machine on the day of the election, July 2, 2022.

*Letters:* Town of Slaughter Beach, 357 Bay Avenue, Milford, DE 19963-4911; *Phone:* (302) 424-7659 and leave a message

*Email*: [townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net](mailto:townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net)

**Town Officials**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *Acting Mayor* Bob Wood (302) 228-2374  *Secretary* Harry Ward (562) 328-4112  *Treasurer* Joanne Plescia (856) 313-4910  *Councilperson* Larry Meinert (413) 320-5669 | *Town Manager Tax* Julia Geha *Collector Code* Jennifer Cornell *Enforcement Town* Bob Clendaniel *Clerk* Kathy McFadden | (267) 909-1886  (302) 670-1659  (302) 270-0687  (609) 658-0165 |