

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 2022 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Cranberry Creek Clubhouse. Attendance was higher than it has been since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, with about 25 seniors present in addition to the Board members and speakers.

There was a Flag salute and a moment of silence for our military and world peace.

Roll call was taken. Board members in attendance were: Ken Miller, Maryann O'Neill, Linda Cicco, Nancy Cotter, Richard Dutton and Lisa Stevens. Dan Maxwell, Liaison to the Township Committee, was also in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on May 24, 2022 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

The first speaker was Captain Troy Bezak of the Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Police Department, who gave the customary update on police-related matters affecting the community. He began by reporting about the bear that was recently present for several days in the Atlantis area of LEH, noting that it had perhaps come there because it had been displaced by the large forest fire in the Pine Barrens north and west of LEH and that it was not removed by animal control officers and ultimately left of its own accord; he said that if a bear attacks a pet, rummages through garbage or becomes a nuisance in some other way a resident can call 911, but otherwise is advised just to leave it alone. He then reported that the recent United States Supreme Court decision on gun permits did not affect the procedure for obtaining a concealed carry permit in New Jersey (which, he said, is not an "open carry" state); the same paper work must be filed in order to obtain a permit, but (as in New York as a result of the decision) one is no longer required to give a reason for wanting to be able to carry a gun. He also said that there have been homeless camps in LEH and that his Department often refers homeless individuals to the On P.O.I.N.T. ("Proactive Outreach in Needs and Treatment") program, which provides help for mental health issues and social support through Ocean Mental Health Services. He then said that under the recent change in the law as to recreational marijuana use, off-duty police officers may use marijuana just like anyone else, but he thinks that the law might be changed in this regard. Finally, he reported that New Jersey will be licensing police officers so that, in addition to obtaining a certificate upon graduating from the Police Academy, they will need to have a separate license, which will be subject to removal by the State.

The next speaker was Joe Martucci, weatherman at the Press of Atlantic City, who appears in videos twice a day, writes stories about the weather and has two podcasts as well. He said that a typical hurricane season includes fourteen tropical storms on average, only four of which become major hurricanes, and he predicted that the 2022 hurricane season will be worse than average. He added that hurricane patterns are affected by water temperatures off the coast of South America, which are below average this year (a "La Nina" rather than "El Nino" year) and also depend upon water temperatures off the coast of the Carolinas. He said that Colorado State, which does hurricane research, was calling for 20 "name" tropical storms, 10 of which would be hurricanes, and five of these would be category 3, 4 or 5, with an above average risk for New Jersey. He also noted that with improved weather technology the prediction of paths of hurricanes had greatly improved and that the predictions were now just as accurate five days out as they had been three days out in 2000. On the subject of day-to-day weather, he predicted more heat and humidity in July and August than we had in June.

The next speakers were Jacqueline Phillips of Seacrest Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, a local facility offering both sub-acute rehabilitation and long-term care, and Wendy Becker of the Terraces, an assisted living facility associated with Seacrest. They reported that Seacrest, on Center Street, had recently been purchased by Marquis Health Services and was undergoing construction, with a projected opening in July, and reassured those present that the transition from long-time ownership by the Holloway family has worked well and that the staffing has not changed and includes many long-time employees. They added that they are always looking for volunteers to assist at the facility, as they need to recover the level of involvement they had had prior to COVID.

Liaison Dan Maxwell then reported on three upcoming events, the fireworks display on July 2, the townwide yard sale on July 16 and the National Night Out on August 2 at the LEH fields. He said that those participating in the yard sale could register at no charge in the Town Clerk's office and the addresses of participants would be posted on Facebook.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the LEH Community Center. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 A.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Richard Dutton, Acting Secretary, LEH Senior Citizens' Advisory Board*