

RBHA BOARD MEETING/GRASS PLANTING/BEACH CLEANUP

Here's another reminder for Saturday, March 21, 2009 when the RBHA will participate in the annual Dune Grass planting event at 9:00 at the Henlopen Hotel parking lot. Volunteers will concentrate on planting dune grass in an area just north of the end of the boardwalk. Dress for the weather, bring gloves and, if you have something like a tomato stake, you can use it to poke holes for planting the grass. You can learn more about the event in a recent Cape Gazette article, <http://www.capegazette.com/storiescurrent/200903/beachgrass06.html>. Following the planting, we plan to walk down the beach—garbage bags in hand—to perform our twice-yearly beach cleanup. Our designated boundaries run from Columbia Avenue through to Prospect Street. We would expect to complete all of these tasks by 11:00. For you early-birds there's also an RBHA Board meeting at 8:00 that morning; it will be a brief administrative session at All Saints Episcopal Church, 18 Olive Avenue.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Five members of the Planning Commission debated the topic of Width of Streets that are actually dead end streets into some sort of a development. Jan Konesey and Nancy Meadow were absent.

The discussion surrounded how wide the street should be, how much access any emergency vehicle needs to get into the area, if there should be a requirement for sidewalks, whether parking should be allowed OR required, and general code compliance issues. The group did agree on the typical width of a cartway of 8' and a parking lane of 7' and this was used throughout the discussions.

There were several attempts to compromise and pass a measure. Five separate motions were made with various suggestions of width, parking, no parking, etc. Some suggestions were 18' wide paved area with no parking, 18' paved with parking on one side, 14' paved with 7' of parking that is not necessarily paved but some sort of paver, and 21' of paved with parking on one side.

Consensus and a vote was taken with the following:

Width equals 16' paved and 7' for parking that could or might not be paved, and 14' of right-of-way with 7' on each side. This 7' is for a 5' sidewalk (required for ADA purposes) and a 2' strip. The total Right-of-Way for this is 37'. Four voted in favor of it and Harvey Shulman abstained because he did not agree but did not want to vote against it.

Other business wrapped up quickly with a discussion on the various venues the Planning Commission will present the Comprehensive Development Plan. They are required to have two public hearings but have a large list of groups that they will present the plan to. RBHA is one of them and appears to be the first on the list. Pal Littleton, Planning Commission Chair, will make a presentation of the CDP at our General Membership meeting on April 18th and we urge ALL members to attend. The plan has far reaching implications for many things that affect our way of life in Rehoboth.

The group also agreed to look at changing their meeting dates to Friday to be consistent with the City Commissioners meetings although, if moved, they plan to schedule the meeting earlier at 5:00 PM or 6:00 PM. They all agreed that it would give more non-residents the opportunity to attend but decided to wait to finalize a time until after the CDP meetings and hearings are complete.

There was also discussion around having full Planning Commission attendance at the joint meeting with the Commissioners to be held at the Commissioners workshop meeting on Friday April 3rd at 9:00 AM to discuss the Site Plan Review Draft Ordinance and on Monday April 13th at 3:30 PM to discuss the CDP.

BEACH STONES

The Boardwalk was totally iced over and a southwest wind drove the wind chill down to four degrees. March was still roaring in Tuesday morning. But it did not deter a half dozen DNREC vehicles and workers from starting work on removal of those nasty beach stones at the shoreline. A steam shovel scooped up stones and sand at the end of Rehoboth Avenue. A front loader then moved the newly created pile to a trench, which had been dug out by a second steam shovel near the dune line. It looks like the project will take some time. It is not clear how much of the one-mile beach front will be scooped out. And from casual observation it's even less clear how effective the project will be; the trench appeared to have a lot more sand than stone in it! Here's a link to some [pictures](#).

FARMERS MARKET

The Rehoboth Beach Farmers Market will open its 2009 season on Tuesday, May 5, and run on consecutive Tuesdays until mid-October. The Market is beginning a month earlier than previous years so that vendors can sell early spring vegetables, flower and vegetable seedlings and other popular favorites. Volunteers are always needed to erect and take down the 30-some tents which are always erected at Grove Park. For 2009, more volunteers will be needed to handle increased number of tents for vendors and extended Market dates. Set-up for tents begins at 10 am Tuesday mornings, and tear down starts at 4:00 pm. Also, the Market will hold a fundraiser at Lupo di Mare, 247 Rehoboth Avenue, on Tuesday March 24, from 5 until 9 pm. The restaurant will contribute 15% of the proceeds in support of the Market. Volunteers are needed to erect/take down the tents, assist vendors, staff the Information Tent, help sell raffle tickets, and other tasks as assigned. There probably will be 30 tents for each session. It takes four people to put up/break down each tent. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Joanne Hess by phone at 302-227-7705 or e-mail at jmhess@verizon.net. If you would like to receive the Market Newsletter by e-mail, please send e-mail request to info@rbfarmersmarket.com.

RECYCLING SCHEDULE

The City's new recycling program begins in April. Here's how it will work. The first pickup will be Friday, April 3rd. The next scheduled pickup will be Friday, April 17th. Then, starting with the next scheduled pickup, Friday, May 1st, the service will be every week on Fridays. The weekly service will continue through September. Beginning in October the off-season service will be provided on the first, third and fifth Friday of the month; the of-season will continue through next April.