

From the PBA Board

January 4, 2021

To the Poppy Community:

It has been a very eventful Fall for the Board and for Poppy, in addition to all the troubles that COVID has caused. Here is a brief summary of current issues as we head into the new year and the upcoming January 9th Board meeting. (You can join the meeting online - watch for login information.) Our topics of the day will be security, drainage, beach access and the Community House. Each is discussed below so that you can prepare any questions you may have. We realize this is a pretty full agenda.

Security

We formed a nine-person security committee last July after the annual July 4th troubles, to identify new approaches to the recurring problems of those weekends - unauthorized beach access, too much alcohol and the night problems. The committee has been meeting since then and is looking at a variety of solutions that we will address in more detail at the January 9th meeting. All are very important and we welcome more voices to the committee and your input.

The most significant development is that we have chosen a new security company, Pilgrim Security, for 2021. This was not an easy decision and a ton of work and strain went into it. Many of us are very fond of the Amity team and it was a difficult decision to make the change. The Committee voted 6-3 in favor of Pilgrim, and the Board voted 8-3-1 in favor, due to their experience with beach issues, and their personnel, consisting of former police officers and others with security training. Tim Norris of Pilgrim is excited for the opportunity to work with us and we will schedule an online opportunity for the community to "Meet the New Security Company" on either January 16th or January 23rd. You will have a chance to meet with Tim and advise him of your concerns. Please do not scare him away!
[<https://www.pilgrim-security.com/>]

We have also voted to substantially increase the security budget for 2021 by about 30%. We cannot afford this level of investment every year, but given the COVID year we had in 2020, there is "one-time" money we can use this year to bring the weekends around July 4th under control. We hope for more security details along Shore Drive to discourage beach access and more patrols at night.

On January 13th we will have another meeting with PBA, New Seabury, Save Popponesset Bay, Overlook, Wilsons Grove, Maushop, Mashpee police (and others) to plan out next summer. Police details are always an issue and always subject to their availability. We lost coverage last summer due to other pressing issues around town. We will attempt to nail down more details, as well as launch a public messaging campaign, to make the summer a little more secure for all of us. If we can get more community policing as well, that would be great.

Drainage

We are pleased to announce that, after significant planning and redesign, we have completed Phase I of the Uncle Edwards drainage project. We separated the project into two stages, due to the complicated

fix and the cost. We plan to monitor that area next year and see if Phase II is needed or if we can reallocate resources elsewhere.

You may have heard that the last-minute drama during the Uncle Edwards project was the breakage of a gas line. We were informed it was not the fault of the contractor although the review process is not completed. Tim Gildea and Christine Fairney of the board swung into action to assist coordination with impacted homeowners. The line was repaired in short order and impacted houses reconnected to the gas line. Thanks to Tim and Christine for going above the call of duty.

With Phase I completed, we have already begun riding around Poppy with the contractor (and at times the engineer) and look at other problem areas. Areas include Eliot and Shore, Squaws, Cordwood, Nashawena and Pembroke. If you would like your area considered, let us know. We also plan to try and spend some available cash on more drain cleaning, to see if that will also help. The water table is high, though. A walk around Poppy and a look into the drains shows you all you need to see.

We are happy to report that we were able to hit four drainage areas this year: Nick Trail and Shore, Clover and Shore, Barse (all relatively small projects) and Uncle Edwards. Thanks again to Tim and Christine for a job well done.

Beach Access

At the requests of residents, we are continuing the installation of boardwalks. We hope to hit Squaws and Sandy this year, and Dean's Hollow next year. The first step for any boardwalk will be coordinating with the Mashpee Conservation Commission. Before planning gets too far, and before we schedule with ConCom, we will reach out to the affected areas for a site walk, but you should expect a similar look to the boardwalks that were installed three years ago at Bluff Avenue and Kim Path. We hope this will help our disabled and elderly access the beaches.

The Community House

The Community House is getting geared up for 2021. First and foremost, we are looking for a new Inside Director to supervise Arts and Crafts, the Snack Bar and the Sale of Merchandise. If you know of any candidate, please feel free to contact any member of the Board. Ideally the candidate would enjoy working with children, be available from June 25th through August 15th and be a Poppy resident. The position pays \$20 per hour. Next, the oversight of the Community House has changed. We have gone to a committee approach with 6-8 Poppy Residents volunteering their time to organize and run all the fun events at the House such as The Poppy Road Race, Trivia Night, Bingo and Outside Movies. Literally this takes a village, so anyone who wants to volunteer for these events please let us know.

Another great change is that we are working on having our merchandise sold on line. We are currently working with vendors to get this going, so we will be able to purchase all our gear year-round via the PBA website.

Also, we continue to work on some key improvement initiatives for the house itself. Specifically, we are working on some much-needed construction projects for the Community House. On the list: 1) Make the bathrooms Handicap accessible, 2) Add to our outside play area with additional swings and other playground equipment and 3) Introduce a "Take Out" window at the Community House to entice greater Community House activity and limit the inside traffic due to Covid. The Committee is actively

working on these efforts and would like to begin some of these before the Summer of 2021. As always, we appreciate any help you are able to give, financial or otherwise.

After the meeting on the 9th, we will swing into considering the final 2021 budget. At the appropriate time, we will put a budget meeting on Zoom. We also plan virtual meetings on pond developments and the work that has been done on water quality testing.

If there are other topics of interest you would like us to address virtually, please let us know, although the agenda for Saturday January 9th is pretty full.

We wish everyone a healthy and safe 2021 and we can't wait for Spring to return to Popponesset. Let's all hope we are able to put on a Field Day celebration for July 4th! Stay positive everyone and happy New Year!

The PBA Board