

# December 2020, Coconut Telegraph

Important information in this issue you won't want to miss!

**\*\*LGPOA Business Meeting Minutes**

**\*\*Link to LGI Sewer Project Question and Answers**

**\*\*All About the Poison That Kills Brazilian Peppers and Australian Pines**

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## **Let's All Welcome Our Newest Board Member**

From District 1 Director, Laurie Tremblay:

Greetings fellow islanders,

I am excited about being a new member of the LGPOA representing District 1. I was born in Charleston, SC and graduated from Furman University, Greenville, SC with a degree in education. My husband, Joe, and I live in Winter Haven where I taught middle school science for 37 years (40 total) at Grace Lutheran School. We bought our island lot in 1980 (when mosquitoes and fishermen were the main inhabitants), and finished construction around 1984 (we did much of the work ourselves on weekends and vacations). We have spent many happy times over the years with our three children, their spouses, and our five grandchildren. Since we have both retired, we now split our time between LGI and Winter Haven.

Activities that I enjoy include reading, lap swimming, kayaking, hiking, biking, travelling, photography, and anything "on island". Memories include perfect beach and boating days with friends and family; watching birds, manatees, porpoises, turtles, tarpon, and other fish in our beautiful area; hauling lots of drinking water with a pushcart from the boat to the house, trips to the ER for fish hook removal, sting ray encounters, and stiches from hitting shells in shallow water; catching fish and having cook outs with friends; exploring the waters by kayak; celebrating the wedding of our youngest son and his bride in the island

chapel; spending New Year's Eve with our friends on the lane by a campfire on the beach; evacuating our whole household at 3AM during the "No Name" storm; and praying that other hurricanes would just pass us by without much damage. We hope to enjoy the uniqueness of LGI for many years to come!

**\*\*LGPOA Business Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2020**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Leydon at 5:03 PM at the home of Richard Leydon.

**Present**

Board members present were Richard Leydon, Rhonda Olson, Paul Holmes, Deric Flom, Roy Petteway (phone), Joe Bokar and Barb Dwyer.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the June 4, 2020 were approved via email previously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Paul Holmes reported that the bank account has \$22,500 currently with 250 members paid during the 2020 membership drive so far. Due to Covid-19, expenses for this year are down.

**Committee Updates**

**COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS via LGPOA Memberships**

Rhonda Olson reported her follow up results with the list of membership volunteers for board positions and committees.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Dawn Bokar agreed with Paul Holmes' reported membership number with the additional membership forms he brought to the meeting.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

The board is still looking for an Environmental Chairperson. Rhonda Olson reported that the 2020 Coastal Cleanup, organized by Deric Flom, was a success. However, Rhonda led a discussion on the best methods to communicate the need for more volunteers for future LGPOA events, once Covid restrictions are lifted. The decision was made to utilize both the LGPOA website and the Homeowners Forum Facebook page to ask for volunteers and posting notices of events.

## NAVIGATION

Richard Leydon reported that he has been touch with Charlotte County in regards to the three missing markers in the channel and that they are well aware of our channel and the need for replacement of these markers.

## COCONUT TELEGRAPH

Rhonda Olson is going to work with a volunteer who stepped up to take over the LGPOA Coconut Telegraph.

## Old Business

### ISLAND GARAGE SALE

Rhonda Olson led discussion on the island garage sale scheduled for Friday, November 27. She has had response from one resident thus far and will cancel the event if there are no others interested at his time.

### ROADS

Pede Fraser started a discussion on the worsening condition of the island roads. The right of ways and private property issues were discussed and worst areas were determined. After many ideas were presented on how to deal with the worsening holes a motion was made by Richard Leydon and seconded by Rhonda Olson to approve the LGPOA spending a maximum \$5,000 pending approval of a matching amount by the LGI Fire Department board. Paul Holmes will work to get approval at the next Fire Department board meeting. Richard Leydon and Bill Underhill will oversee the project.

### PUBLIC RAMP EXPANSION

Richard Leydon reported that there was no new information available on this project and that Robert Hill was helping and both were keeping in contact with the county to stay included on progress.

## New Business

### MEETING SPACE

Joe and Dawn Bokar agreed to sponsor LGPOA meetings at Placida Beach Condo's clubhouse.

### NEW BOARD MEMBER

Laurie Tremblay was welcomed as the District 1 Representative after motion was made by Paul Holmes and seconded by Richard Leydon.

### SEWER PROJECT

Jack and Diane Boyer were present and questions and answers will be posted separately.

Next meeting

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th, 2021. Please submit any questions or concerns to your District rep ahead of time.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Leydon and seconded by Joe Bokar at 6:49 pm.

**\*\*Link to LGI Sewer Project Question and Answers**

Late last week the questions and answers from islanders were sent to you via email. They are posted on the LGPOA website <https://lgpoa.org/lgi-sewer-project/> for your further review.

**\*\*Who do you call if you find an animal that's hurt?**

The Wildlife Center of Venice will help you if you've found an animal in need at 941-484-9657. If you'd like more information or want to make a donation you can do so at <https://wildlifecenterofvenice.org>. And lastly, if you are interested in helping the center with LGI animals please contact [twrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:twrhonda@gmail.com).

**\*\*All About the Poison That Kills Brazilian Peppers and Australian Pines**

Tired of **Brazilian Peppers and Australian Pines (Exotics)** on your property? Element 4, a biodegradable poison that is sprayed on the cut limbs of the plant, is the answer. The park service uses this product to eliminate exotics and the LGPOA has purchased Element 4 for everyone on LGI to use. You can either spray the poison on the stumps or "skirt" the tree before cutting it down. Skirting is cutting a ring around the base of the trunk and spraying the poison on it while it still stands. The tree will die and be easier to remove. If you don't spray them once cut, they will most likely grow back.

Contact Jennifer McCullough by texting or calling 303-809-0493 to make an appointment. Bring a plastic spray bottle to contain it in.

**\*\*New Year's Eve festivities**

Island contractors sponsor the New Year's Eve potluck, lighted golf cart parade and band at the golf cart shop as a thank you to islanders. It is not an LGPOA event. There will be no potluck this year, but the parade and band are still on! Look for signs on island bulletin boards shortly with more details or you can call the participating contractors for more information.

### **\*\*Island Wide Garage Sale**

The Island Wide Garage Sale was held November 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. We had only two participants this year. Unfortunately, I think it's easier for people to post items on Facebook, plus I'm sure Covid didn't help.

We will try it again next year in hopes for more participants.

### **\*\*International Coastal Cleanup**

From Director, Deric Flom:

Congrats to those who chose to come out and help make our island beautiful!

We managed to collect and haul many bags of cans, water bottles, lighters and flip flops, fishing lures and bait buckets! There was a lot to pick up after hurricane ETA pushed water up bayside. More than our volunteers could collect!

The storm also washed up litter Gulf side! The ladies that combed the beach left bags to be picked up on their way back. When they returned to collect the bags, other islanders had already taken them and disposed of them. That says a lot about our islanders!

Please be sure to thank everyone at Eldred's for allowing the dumpster again this year!

### **Membership Reminder**

From Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar:

Just a reminder that it's never too late to renew your LGPOA membership. There have been a record number of property sales this year, so if you have a new

neighbor, please share the Coconut Telegraph with them and let them know about the LGPOA! As always, new memberships and renewals can be done online at <http://www.LGPOA.org/membership> and paid securely via PayPal. Or you can send me an email request for the paper form that can be mailed in with a check. Not sure if your membership is current? Email me at [dawnbokar@gmail.com](mailto:dawnbokar@gmail.com). Stay safe and happy holidays!

### **\*\*Environmental Update**

From LGI's FWC Turtle Permit Holder, Bren Curtis:

#### **Backyard Bird Feeders**

One of the most enjoyable things to do in the dry season is to provide a water source with bird feeders in your backyard preferably next to a nice big window for viewing. Cornell Bird Academy has a wonderful program for anyone interested in feeding birds. They have community contests for stories and photos.

Lots of good information on the dangers of backyards are featured including window crashes, pets like cats, predators like hawks, crows and eagles, pesticides, herbicides, dirty feeders and communicable diseases. Information on how to attract the birds you like and which feeders work for specific species are included along with the best choice of foods for your favorite bird. Water is needed in the dry season so you can use drippers or many kinds of birdbaths. You can get answers on how human behavior changes the way birds act; or vice versa, how a backyard feeder and bird behavior can enhance your life especially during shutdowns.

The latest research on how food availability might be changing migration is also an interesting read. Some feeding programs may help birds like hummingbirds to expand their range. Migrating patterns may be changing slower than the weather as our climate warms. This displaces a bird's knowledge of normal blooming and fruiting times when parents need to find food for chicks. Chicks mostly need insects for fast growth and warming weather often encourages insects to mate earlier. Parent birds cannot find caterpillars for their young and may starve.

Cornell Academy provides information as it evolves in the field. When backyard-feeding data is entered on their site, you become an important citizen scientist! Moreover, the site can help you identify birds that visit your feeders.

You can find out more at their website <https://feederwatch.org> or to get additional information by going to their Facebook page and search for recordings where you will find a list of webinars.

Try Bird Feeding 101 webinar for free  
[Bird Feeding Free Webinar](#)

**\*\*Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)** (The LGPOA is not affiliated with the LGIFR, we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)

From Fire Chief, Bill Underhill:

The LGIFR board meeting was held at 3:30 on Saturday, November 28, 2020 at the firehouse, 8928 Gulf Street.

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Please feel free to email me at [twrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:twrhonda@gmail.com) with any information you'd like circulated in the next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Hope you had a nice Thanksgiving,  
Rhonda Olson