

BARQUE HILL ASSOCIATION

Annual Report – 2008

Treasurer's Report

Although our revenue declined, our fiscal 2008 (4/30/08) year ended with a small budget surplus (see enclosed Income Statement), due in large part to less than anticipated expenses for landscaping.

Revenue declined as 85 of 107 total Barque Hill owners paid their dues, down from last year's total of 90. Paid members are so noted on our address/telephone listing which will be distributed and is on our web site. On the expense side we paid for five months of mowing rather than the budgeted seven, and there were no expenses for fencing. Clean-up in the spring and fall was somewhat more expensive and other expenses were in line with our budget. Our real estate taxes increased modestly as both the tax rate increased and the valuation of our six common land parcels rose to \$365,600.

Looking forward to next year, we are budgeting level revenues from dues while expecting modest increases in expenses, producing a small deficit.

Grounds

We have an agreement with the Town of Norwell, negotiated in 1983, whereby our 64 acres of common land are under a *conservation restriction* which prohibits any building, dumping or cutting on the common land without the approval of the Conservation Commission. In return, the taxes are at a reduced rate and the land is reserved for use by members of the Barque Hill Association.

General: We continue to make improvements in the appearance and enjoyment of our common lands, primarily through clearing dead wood and planting. Grass planted in the fall of 2006 on the Barque Hill Drive center strip is making slow progress. The area was cleared and overseeded last spring. It will take some further luck with the weather to come to fruition, but hope springs eternal. The dense growth along Barque Hill Trail was trimmed back, opening that trail as a pleasant walking path. Shipyard Park was cleared for the picnic, enlarged and new grass planted. Landing Green was cleared near the road. Finally, we paid some attention to Till Rock Park, maintaining the whole area for residents to enjoy.

Mowing: We are fortunate that Bill Goodwin and his On the Green staff have been attentive and efficient in caring for our grounds. In addition to mowing, they have provided both a spring and fall clean-up and fertilization. Mowing on common land, particularly the center strip on Barque Hill Drive and the frontage of Till Rock Park, is hampered by dog owners not picking up after their pets. Please be considerate of our neighborhood where so many of us walk and play by cleaning up after your dog.

Fences: No repairs were made last year to the split rail fences which front our common lands. We will probably have to make repairs this year as several rails have rotted and fallen and several posts have weakened. We expect to continue to replace fences every year or so as the aging process continues.

Flowers and Rocks: Jessie Chai and Loann Keene have done a wonderful job in planting flowers at the foot of Barque Hill Drive and Till Rock. Christmas wreaths added to our enjoyment of the season. Loann repainted the Barque Hill logos on the two rocks in 2004.

Stetson Road: Our Association volunteered to help keep Stetson clear of trash and neater in appearance. We spent some time last summer and fall on the strip paralleling Route 3, picking up trash, mowing and trimming. Many of our residents enjoy walking and running on this road.

Rope Swing and Trespassing: In June, 2004 the rope swing was removed, and most of the accompanying problems disappeared.

Association Functions

Picnic – September 22: We had nice weather and a great time with activities and games organized by Dan Uhlman, food prepared by Mark Hanson & Tom Flynn and salads and desserts brought by many. In addition to the infamous egg toss, Dan introduced an adults vs. kids nerf ball game as a new highlight. Another was the tractor rides through Till Rock Park and Barque Hill Trail. This picnic is the major social event for our neighborhood, especially the kids. Matt Hendison, our former emcee now living in Los Angeles, put in a cameo appearance.

Halloween – October 31: Halloween Eve in our neighborhood was on a warm evening and passed without any destructive incidents.

Welcoming Committee: Under the leadership of Anne Merna, a welcoming committee presents a package of gifts to the new owners in Barque Hill. Three new owners arrived this fiscal year, down from an average of 5 over the last seven years. This initiative has been well received and adds to the congeniality of our neighborhood.

Roads

Condition: The last of three steps was completed in 2006 by the Highway Department. In the fall of 2004, drainage areas were cleared and repaired. Second, a base coat and berm were laid down on the existing roads. The top coat was laid down in the spring of 2005 and hopefully will survive the rigors of winter and snowplowing for many years.

Speeding: Speeding in our neighborhood is an ongoing concern, particularly on Barque Hill Drive, a relatively straight stretch of road fronting many residences with small children. Although vendors are sometime offenders, often residents are equally at fault. Please be careful driving in our neighborhood where 25 MPH does not seem to be an unreasonable limit.

In November, 2003, we sent a letter to the Traffic Study Committee requesting a review of the speed in Barque Hill and the feasibility of STOP signs, particularly at the corner of Till Rock and Brigantine Circle. Another dangerous area is opposite Shipyard Park where cars speed down the hill and can't be easily seen by pedestrians and bike riders. Among the concerns expressed was the obvious danger to children and walkers/runners. This letter was addressed at the May 27, 2004 meeting attended by Tom Flynn and Tom Poor. Any action to be taken on this request will require study and measurement, a process which hasn't happened in four years and seems indicative of the speed of this Committee. We intend to write another letter.

Web Site

John Garvey has created a very interesting and attractive web site (www.barquehill.org) which contains the history of our area, pictures and other helpful information. He is always looking for more material – pictures, articles, etc.

Other Topics

Home Owner's Guide: This guide is usually given to new residents of Barque Hill. It was reprinted in the spring of 1994 from the original version created in 1962 to provide design standards and general information for the development of the Barque Hill area by Norwell Associates. Steve Lynch will scan the contents and perhaps lay the foundation for a modern version, meaning a review of the present guide in its entirety and making appropriate additions/subtractions.

Tom Poor – President/Treasurer
Kris Buckley – Secretary

Directors:

Tom Flynn
John Garvey – Webmaster
Jon & Loann Keene – Grounds
Anne Merna - Welcoming
Mark Roman
Rosemary Spurway
Dan Uhlman – Social Events