

BOARD VACANCIES

The Town Commission welcomes and encourages residents to get involved by attending meetings and participating in Town Boards. All interested residents can download a [Talent Bank Application](#) or pick up an application in the Clerk's Office at Town Hall.

Current Vacancies:

Board of Adjustments & Appeals

Financial Advisory Board

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH



Manager's Minute – December 2020



INTRODUCTION

December marks the start of the cherished holiday season, and unfortunately, we are starting this season with an unwanted guest that is refusing to leave: COVID -19. The pandemic challenges us as we set plans with family and friends.

Our Annual Light Up the Holidays event has been canceled; however, if you drive or walk by Town Hall you will be able to view the holiday light display.

As we prepare to go into the holiday season, I want to remind everyone of all the health safety information the CDC recommends and the practices we have implemented in our lives to protect us from COVID-19. Recently, an increase in positive COVID-19 cases are occurring locally and nationally. With that said, it is imperative we remain vigilant in our personal health safety protocols and practices we have established for interacting with each other, the public and people that come into our homes. We have done a great job of following these standards, which have been vital to keeping our lives and homes healthy. We need you to continue to maintain that vigilance in your personal lives so we can all stay healthy.

Practice social distancing - Wash your hands regularly - Wear your masks – Try to laugh at least once a day.

I can do this. You can do this. Together we will do this!

Happy Holidays!! Be safe!

Upcoming Events:

December 09, 2020 – Virtual Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board Meeting

December 10, 2020 – Planning Board Meeting

December 15, 2020 – Town Commission Meeting

December 17, 2020 – Virtual Financial Advisory Board Meeting

December 24, 2020 – Town Hall Closed in observance of Christmas Eve

December 25, 2020 – Town Hall Closed in observance of Christmas Day

January 1, 2021 – Town Hall Closed in observance of New Years Day

January 5, 2021 – Town Commission Meeting

The Town Commission has been working extremely hard over the past month on the following topics:

Milani Park: On November 18, 2020, the Town Commission organized a “beach sit-in” at the Milani Park beach. We are thankful to the 100+ residents that dedicated their time to come help with this effort. The residents came to the beach in hopes to reengage the county to show how the beach will look populated. If you are interested seeing the videos from the “sit-in”, the Mayor provided an update at the December 1st meeting.

Water/Sewer Rate Study: The Commission continues to work diligently on the FY 2020 Revenue Sufficiency and Rate Study – Water and Wastewater Systems. The Commission is currently evaluating the potentials to expanding usage amounts within each tier without creating a disproportionate financial burden on any one group, whether single family or multifamily. The discussion continued at the December 1st Commission meeting and then will head to the Financial Advisory Board for another look at the proposal at their upcoming meeting on December 17th.

Fire Study: The study is still in the works and the consultants are waiting for financial information from the City of Delray Beach. If all information is received, the report should be presented at the upcoming Commission meeting on December 15th.

Construction Work Hours: At the November 5th meeting, the Commission discussed the Town’s current hours for construction and reviewed similarly situated and nearby communities’ hours. Upon evaluation, the Commission voted in favor of allowing quiet work on Saturdays and extending the work day hours an additional 30 minutes. The first read of the ordinance will be presented to the Commission at the December 15th meeting.

Commission Sponsorship: It was a consensus of the Commission that when items are discussed, the Commission will appoint a Commissioner as a sponsor, to work with staff on that particular topic.

Right of Way Ordinance: The Town’s Code of Ordinances does not currently provide regulations regarding the use or occupancy of the public right-of-way in order to install, place, construct or replace any improvement or to locate any equipment. Commissioner Shoemaker is currently the sponsor of the ordinance and is in the process of working with Town staff to develop language for review by the Commission.

Marine Accessory Structures: At the November 17th Commission meeting, the Commission approved Vice Mayor Babij as the sponsor to work with Town staff in developing concepts regarding the Code of Ordinances with regard to marine accessory structures.

Palm Beach County CARES ACT: The Finance department was able to complete the necessary paperwork to provide reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenditures under the Palm Beach County CARES ACT Reimbursement program. The Town submitted for \$61,661.66 in reimbursement from the County.

To view current and past meetings, please visit the Town’s [YouTube](#) page.

SAFETY TIP: FROM THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports there are approximately 16,000 to 20,000 fires in high-rise buildings each year. This represents 2 to 4 percent of all building fires. If you are in a high-rise when fire breaks out:

- Well in advance of an emergency, find the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.
- Don't automatically run for the stairs. In some instances, it may be best to stay put and wait for instructions.
- If it is clear you should evacuate, pull the alarm on your way out, to notify the fire department and your neighbors. Don't assume someone else will handle this.
- If the fire alarm sounds, feel the door before opening and close all doors behind you as you leave. If the door is hot, find another way out. If it is cool, leave by the nearest exit.
- Instead of taking the elevator, use the stairs in a fire, unless the fire department instructs otherwise. Some buildings come equipped with elevators, which are intended for emergency use. Such elevators should be clearly marked.
- If someone is trapped in the building, notify the fire department.
- If you are unable to evacuate your apartment or high-rise workplace in a fire due to flames, smoke or a disability, stuff wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out. Call the fire department to alert officials to your location.
- Slightly open a window and wave a bright-colored cloth to signal your location. However, be prepared to close the window if smoke conditions worsen.

STAY INFORMED

In order to stay up to date on Town business, updates and what may be happening in the Town, please provide your email address to Terisha Cuebas at tcuebas@highlandbeach.us. *(It is important to note that all records of the Town are public including the emails list.)*

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH - GENERAL ELECTION

The Town of Highland Beach will hold its General Election on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The purpose is to elect a Vice Mayor-Commissioner for a three-year term ending March 2024, and one Commissioner for a three-year term ending March 2024. To be eligible for election the individual must be a United States citizen, and a qualified elector of the Town of Highland Beach, State of Florida for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the beginning of the qualifying period.

The first day of qualifying begins Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 12 noon and the last day of qualifying ends Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 12 noon. Individuals seeking to qualify as a candidate for the General Election must file qualifications papers in person with the Town Clerk at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 South Ocean Boulevard, Highland Beach, Florida, during regular office hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information, please contact Town Clerk Lanelda Gaskins at (561) 278-4548.

Registered voters in Precincts 4128, 4129 and 4156 are qualified to vote in this election. To qualify as a registered voter for this General Election you must register with the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Election by February 8, 2021.

DRINKING WATER ADDITIONAL LAB TESTING UPDATE

The Town's Water Treatment Plant continues to produce award winning water. This year the Department of Environmental Protection required the Town to perform three (3) year and nine (9) year testing on the drinking water. The samples tested were taken by Water Plant staff and the testing was conducted by a 3rd party laboratory. The testing that took place was for volatile organics, synthetic organics, inorganics, secondary contaminants, asbestos and radionuclides. All testing for the drinking water resulted as satisfactory. Additionally, thank you to the residents who allowed the Water Plant staff to come into their home and take samples to test the lead and copper. All testing for lead and copper were satisfactory as well.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES



The Commission recently approved a contract with LaPorta Contracting LLC, to replace the Town Hall roof, as the current roof is 15 years old and has been exhibiting signs of rapid deterioration. The project commenced this week and will take about 30 days to complete. Secondly, the Town has upgraded the street signs on the side streets. The new signs are modernized and include the new town logo. Additionally, as you ride by Town Hall you will notice the holiday decorations are in

full display. We thank our Public Works Department for taking pride in keeping our Town beautiful.



LIBRARY UPDATE

If you are staying home more this season, we are happy to keep you entertained. In addition to books and movies, you can visit the library to:



- borrow a jigsaw puzzle;
- ask us to copy crossword puzzles from the newspaper;
- do yoga at home with one of our exercise DVDs
- prepare a new recipe from our cookbooks or food magazines;
- pick up a fun, easy winter-themed craft kit for the kids or grandkids.

The library is currently offering 30-minute appointments to come in to browse or use the computers. Call 561-278-5455 to schedule a visit. To pick up items you've reserved online or by phone, just knock on the door any time.

OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS

“Code Tip of the Month” – Wild Animals:

Highland Beach is home to many species of wildlife, and it is part of the reason why it is such an attractive and relaxing place to live. However, as humans encroach on the land in which these animals reside, these animals can be perceived as an annoyance to residents. So, what can be done about nuisance animals? With regards to raccoons, opossums, ducks, and even coyotes, the Town or Palm

Beach County does not have any programs that would remove these types of animals. Raccoons, opossums, and coyotes are native species and a part of the ecology of our area. It is important to note that these animals are not considered “rodents”, but indigenous species. Our recommendation is, if they are proving to be bothersome, that you remove any sort of potential item(s) that may attract them – the most important being to keep your garbage cans securely closed. Perhaps even more important, DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS; feeding wildlife accustoms them to humans and is a certain death sentence. If you see raccoons or coyotes exhibiting unusual behavior, like losing their fear of humans or chasing bikers, joggers or leashed pets, this can be reported to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Iguanas can be quite a problem in the area also as many know, however, they are not afforded the same protections as the indigenous species have. The State of Florida classifies Green Iguanas as non-native, invasive species to the state and are only protected by anti-cruelty laws. If you feel Iguanas are causing a nuisance on your property, the Town recommends hiring a professional trapper to remove them from the property and humanely dispose of it. Although, the State allows humane killing of Iguanas with pellet guns, the Town does not condone this due to the high resident population density and danger of stray shots that could cause injury. For more information on how to humanely remove iguanas, visit the FWC website at myfwc.com.

If you have any questions regarding the Town’s policy towards animals and wildlife in the area, please contact the Code Compliance Department at 561-637-2035 or email to jmanko@highlandbeach.us.

BUILDING/PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The Town of Highland Beach Building Department (November 2020):

- Issued 82 permits; and,
- Conducted 386 inspections at 106 sites; and,
- Received 21 new code enforcement complaints/requests; and,
- Opened 21 new code enforcement cases & closed 17 cases (currently there are 29 open code enforcement cases).
- 3 non-compliance cases with pending hearings.

Properties Under Construction

- 4205 Intracoastal Drive – New single-family construction
- 2352 South Ocean Blvd – New single-family construction, pool, deck, dock and seawall
- 4513 South Ocean Blvd – New construction, two units
- 4403 Intracoastal Drive – New single-family construction
- 4410 Tranquility Drive – New single-family construction, dock, seawall cap, two seawall returns
- 4005 South Ocean Blvd – New single-family construction
- 2475 South Ocean Blvd – New Single-family construction
- 4200 South Ocean Blvd – Reconstruct 4 units to 3 units
- 1016 Bel Air Drive – Boat lift (slip number 7)
- 1004 Bel Air Drive – Boat lift (slip number 3)

Properties Soon to be Constructed

- 1100 B Highland Beach Drive – New seawall, seawall cap and concrete dock
- 4206 Intracoastal Drive – New single-family construction
- 11 Ocean Place – New roof terrace on existing rear covered patio
- 4318 South Ocean Blvd – Boat lift

3614 South Ocean Boulevard, Highland Beach, FL 33487

Phone: (561) 278-4548

Website: www.highlandbeach.us

If you have any questions, concerns or issues, you may contact Terisha Cuebas, Assistant to Town Manager to schedule an appointment with Town Manager Labadie.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH COMMISSION



Mayor Douglas Hillman
Email: dhillman@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 702-3389



Vice Mayor Greg Babij
Email: gbabij@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 702-2650



Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman
Email: pseidman@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 702-8599



Commissioner Evalyn David
Email: edavid@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 414-6109



Commissioner John Shoemaker
Email: jshoemaker@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 859-2686