For Immediate Release August 1, 2018

## Elections Committee Offers Ballot Clarification to Ocean Pines Voters

With the 2018 Ocean Pines Board of Directors election nearing its completion, the Elections Advisory Committee would like to remind voters of proper ballot delivery procedures.

"In every OPA election, a few ballots arrive too late to count," said Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger. "Your vote is important and we want to help make it count."

Once Ocean Pines property owners have received and filled out their ballots, they may choose to deliver it physically or by mail. Physical delivery may be done by dropping your ballot off in the police department at the Administration Building, located at 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines, no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 8.

"If you plan to drop off your ballot, it is very easy because the ballot drop box is easy to spot at the Ocean Pines Police Department," said Habeger. Labeled "Official Ballot Box," the black ballot box is situated adjacent to the door of the police department.

If voters choose to send their ballots by mail, the completed ballots should be mailed early enough so that they arrive at the proper post office on Aug. 8.

"Please note that the Ocean Pines Association mail box is located in the Berlin Post Office, not the Ocean Pines Post Office, " said Habeger. "Depositing mail in a drop box or slot in the Ocean Pines Post Office by the posted pick-up time does not guarantee the ballot will get to the Berlin Post Office the next day. It probably will but it is not a certainty."

Habeger said voters who plan to mail their ballots should consider postal service processing time. "Don't wait until the last minute to mail your ballot."

The Elections Committee encourages members to get to know the candidates before casting a ballot by visiting http://www.oceanpines.org/meet-the-2018-ocean-pines-board-of-directors-candidates/.

Seven eligible candidates are vying for four open positions on the Board of Directors. Ocean Pines property owners who received ballots can vote for no more than four of the following candidates:

- Steve Tuttle
- Frank Daly
- Gregory Turner
- Paula Gray

- Esther Diller
- Ted Moroney
- Arie Klapholz

The Elections Committee will monitor the Elections telephone voice message system, 410-208-3989, for questions and/or requests for replacement ballots. Write-in candidates are not allowed.

In accordance with the OPA by-laws, no member may vote if the member has failed to pay the annual charge, including any assessed interest levied by the Association.

Votes will be counted and ballot totals will be announced on Aug. 10 at 9 a.m. at the Marlin Room in the Community Center, located at 235 Ocean Parkway.

Election results will be validated at the Annual Meeting of the Membership on Saturday, Aug. 11 at 10 a.m. at the Assateague Room in the Community Center. All property owners are urged to attend the Annual Meeting. Members are encouraged to arrive early and should be ready to provide a photo ID such as a driver's license.

## About the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the legislative policy-setting body of the Ocean Pines community. The affairs and business of the Association are managed by a Board of seven and the terms of the Directors will be for three years or until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified.

For more information, contact Ocean Pines Elections Committee Chairperson Steve Habeger at elections@oceanpines.org.

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