

BHA Board Candidate for 2023

Christine Osborne



Profession and education: Real Estate Assistant, retired. Wake Tech Community College.

Spouse name and background: Rex Osborne. Managing Partner and Broker in Charge Windjam Properties-Commercial, Residential and Development. Bowling Green University.

What is your history with Bald Head Island that has brought you to ownership and now a candidate for BHA? My husband, Rex, and I first visited BHI in 1997 and fell in love with the uniqueness of the island. We purchased a lot and built our home in 2003, which we now reside in as full-time residents. Our boys, Collin and Harrison, enjoyed island life every summer of their childhood. I have watched the island evolve over the years and have grown with it while inserting myself whenever possible in areas I felt I would best be of service.

What professional skills and life experiences do you feel would be most valued as a member of the BHA Board? I have a background which involves three HOA's in Wake County, NC. One at its conception and the other two serving on each Board. I believe this lends me the experience for this particular roll. Speaking of service, I believe that it is important to give back to our island. To date, I serve as well as lead The Chapel's BHI Meal Outreach Program, volunteer with the PSA as an emergency Site Team Leader, serve on the BHIC House Committee and Co-Chair the BHI Holiday Parade.

As a BHI property owner, what aspect of Island life is most important to you as a key to BHI's future and, if elected, how would you help craft that future? As an island homeowner and your neighbor, I believe we share some of the same concerns. First and foremost, concerns from some of overreach should be addressed. Finally, my focus would be to not only discuss what improvements/changes are to be made but to also be clear about the cost incurred.

Open, clear communication between the BHA and its membership is key.

Platform/Philosophy/Positions — Address these real-world questions:

Property owners seem to want BHA to represent them in more than just land use issues. What new dimensions to their role should the BHA Board be considering and discussing? Why is this important? In my opinion, I believe that the BHA has enough on its plate and would better serve our members by focusing on its present responsibilities in a more effective manner.

The trend toward a "resort-like" Island poses issues for the property owners who favor a culture of stewardship and conservancy. A fissure seems to be developing. What are some of the mechanisms BHA might encourage to ensure we strengthen our "community"? In 2000, when my husband and I made the decision to build our home here on the island, we did our due diligence. We read the build-out/development plan and understood that growth and change were inevitable. I have spoken to a few people that would love for the island to remain as it was when they purchased here; however, this is not possible. What we are able to do, as good stewards of the island, is to stay involved wherever possible. The job of the BHA is to ensure that our island continues to grow within the architectural guidelines set forth for its members in a seamless manner.

Should BHA have any influence over commercial development on the Island? If so, in what areas? Again, I would like to see BHA better focus on the responsibilities that are already in place. The Village has the task of governing commercial property and works alongside the Commercial Property Owners Association as well as Village Zoning. Recently, the Village Council formed a diverse group of property owners to gather input. I would recommend that the BHA encourages its members to connect with the Village should they have questions in this area.

How could the BHA Board and the Village Council better work in tandem to ensure an alignment of goals for the Island and the means to implement? I believe that it would benefit the entire island if all organized island entities met on a regular basis. Decisions that are made by two organizations, the BHA and The Village, affect every island organization. I strongly believe that politics should stay within the Village Council and BHA should focus on its membership in its entirety and remain apolitical.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you for simply voting! I am a write-in candidate, as is Mr. Paul Carey. What this means is if you do not vote, your vote goes to a proxy vote. This vote will go to the candidate that the BHA has put forward. If you are looking for change within the BHA, then I would appreciate your vote.