

2024 BHA Board Candidate

Michael Bumarch



Profession and education: Business Owner – HCO Innovations. Note – Retired 5 years ago but maintained ownership. Education – N/A.

Spouse name and background: Danielle Bumarch, CEO – Honor Bridge.

What is your history with Bald Head Island that has brought you to ownership and now a candidate for BHA? I visited our island in the winter of 2018. As soon as I stepped off the ferry, I immediately felt a spiritual connection to Bald Head. Shortly after, I purchased a condo at Royal James, for weekends only. I quickly realized BHI is where I want to live full time, so I acquired a house on Edward Teach Wynd.

I was approached by numerous people asking me to run for office. I listened to some of their concerns but really couldn't comment on any thoughts without understanding the full spectrum of each situation. After much consideration, and hearing from countless full and part time residents, I made my decision.

What professional skills and life experiences do you feel would be most valued as a member of the BHA Board?

I started HCO in 2008 with a vision to provide efficiency solutions to some of the largest companies in our country. HCO grew by having a stellar reputation for honoring our commitment to our client's success. Currently we are a \$15M organization with less than \$400K in debt. HCO's commonsense approach will be the same commitment I make to BHA.

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? Enhancement of Peace and Serenity, whatever that may be individually, for owners, workers, and visitors. BHI offers something for everyone, and my goal is to deliver that "something." This will happen by listening, working with all governing bodies, and delivering common ground solutions. Enabling us responsible for BHI's wellbeing, to unify and secure Peace and Serenity for all.

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

The trend toward a "resort-like" Island poses issues for the property owners who favor a culture of stewardship and conservancy. What are some of the mechanisms BHA might use to address these issues? I'm not convinced we are trending towards a "resort-like" island verse maintaining a culture of "stewardship and conservancy". I believe both identities are present and can exist together by addressing the following.

Lack of infrastructure to support the current existing climate we are in is critical. If we grow to a resort-like community or lean towards stewardship and conservancy the needs are the same. For example ... We built a look out station to view where Ibis roosts, however, we didn't consider practical accommodations for the amount of people that stop to view. During our peak season the stopped traffic is overwhelming. Did we consider this prior to moving forward with this project? Even though we recently added some parking areas, it won't be enough come the summertime. It is only a matter of time before accidents happen. I'm all for progress (the impressive dock is good for resort-like and stewardship) but it is a high traffic area in peak season forcing pedestrians to interact with normal golf carts, high speed golf carts, trams and cyclist. Stop signs in both directions or high visibility speed bumps would help prevent accidents.

Let's keep people off the dunes is always a topic for discussion. Creating facilities for people to use when enjoying our beaches would be a great step forward. They could be high end portable stations on permanent fixtures like at the marina.

What are some ideas to help strengthen our "community" as a whole for all BHA members, without regard to how much time members spend on the Island? Transparency is the key to strengthening all relations regardless of the percentage of time you are on the island. Everyone that owns here is in a partnership with their fellow residents and governing bodies need to know what they are thinking.

If you are elected to the Board, what initiatives would you propose and lead to help ensure participation among property owners, especially among members who are on the Island part-time? Recommend an oversight committee to ask the questions of all homeowners via phone solicitation or email questionnaire should be a regular event. It is up to us to listen and implement based on a consensus of direction.

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How could the BHA Board, the Village Council, BHI Limited and the BHI Clubs better work in tandem to ensure an alignment of respective organizational goals while also implementing collaborative plans for the Island? This won't be a popular response, but it is a necessary response. If you own a business on BHI you should not sit on any board. Zero conflict of interest of all elected positions.

One person from each BHA Board, Village Council, BHI Limited and our Clubs should be getting together monthly to discuss concerns or potential concerns.

What other issues should the BHA Board be discussing and considering? Why are they important? Consistency on a regular basis needs to happen. When a decision is made for one it needs to be made for all, no exceptions. Slowing down a process when a precedent has already been in place is nonsense. I believe individuals (not all) have personal agendas and that is why they run for office. Bald Head is not an exception to this form of politics. Until we achieve objectivity, we won't achieve a positive outcome for all.