

BHA Board Candidate for 2025

Derek Crump



Profession and education: Attended North Carolina State University 1981-1985. Attended Wake Forest University Law School from 1985-1988. Passed the North Carolina bar in 1988 and began practicing law, concentrating in civil defense litigation over the past 34 years. Currently a founding member and partner in the law firm of Brown, Crump & Tierney, PLLC.

What is your history with Bald Head Island that has brought you to ownership and now a candidate for BHA? I have been visiting Bald Head Island since 1988 and knew the moment that I arrived that it was the place where I wanted to be. We love the Island for its beautiful scenery, laid back lifestyle, great people and quietness. Christy and I were married on the Island in 1997 and bought a home in the Villas in 1999. We are members of the Bald Head Club and I have been a member of the Bald Head Island Villas Association Board for many years and believe that I could use my experience as an attorney and a current member of a homeowner board, which has dealt extensively with the BHA/ARC over the years, to provide support and assistance to the BHA.

What professional skills and life experiences do you feel would be most valued as a member of the BHA Board? As an attorney, I have been exposed to many complex issues and disputes and have extensive experience in exploring various ways to resolve those disputes. In addition to being an attorney, I am a certified mediator, and have assisted parties in resolving their disputes in various and unique ways. I have learned through being an attorney and mediator, that it is very important to make sure that you not only listen, but understand the concerns of all sides, and to invite and implement new ideas into existing and future plans. There are always multiple sides to an issue and all positions should be evaluated in an effort to reach a result that is acceptable to everyone.

As a BHI property owner, what aspect of the Island life is most important to you as a key to BHI's future and, if elected, how would you help craft that future? Our Island is a very special place and I have had the opportunity to watch it grow and expand for the last 36 years. Our most treasured resources are those that are natural to the Island which include our beautiful and tranquil beaches, forests and sunsets. I understand that our Island has become a desirable place for many who want to live and visit here and, therefore, growth will need to continue to meet our needs. However, that growth needs to be smart, well planned and responsible in order to protect the Island's resources and the reasons that many homeowners are here. My top priorities would be to: (1) assist in making sure that requests submitted for property changes/improvements are responded to promptly and consistently and to promote objective standards for such reviews; (2) communicate regularly, thoroughly and truthfully with Island property owners on all Board issues; and (3) to make sure that your BHA is providing the best possible service it can for its property owners, including assessing whether its current structure, and use of resources, is up to date with the most recent industry standards for similar associations. I am committed to all property owners and other Board members to ensure that we maintain the uniqueness of our special Island while meeting the needs of our owners. I have been in a unique position over the past 36 years to see significant changes and how those have affected our Island and I believe that experience would assist me greatly in representing the property owners on the BHA Board.

Platform/Philosophy/Positions

- 1. 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?** The BHA should consider using more before surveys and community forums to receive input from the property owners on their thoughts and positions on any new development and/or ideas for the island. While certain amenities are needed on the island for the property owners, we do need to maintain the original culture of stewardship and conservancy on the island. Communication on all such issues is vitally important.
- 2. 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?** It is very important that those who are not on the island permanently are included in all BHA issues and given the opportunity to provide input on all issues and to attend all meetings, either in person, or through media such as Zoom. The best way to strengthen our community is through communication and inclusiveness and, therefore, the methods and means to communicate with all property owners, including those on and off the island, should be analyzed and improved.

3. 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? I would evaluate and assess the current method of communication with all island residents, to make sure the BHA is providing a means for them to participate in all BHA issues and to provide their input and ideas on the various issues that may arise. I would promote community functions, which are already in place, to meet and greet all residents. I would assess the BHA website and email communications procedures to ensure that all owners are being apprised of all issues.

4. How could the BHA Board, the Village Council, BHI Limited, Old Baldy Foundation, the Conservancy, and the BHI Clubs collaborate to ensure an alignment of respective organizational goals while also implementing collaborative plans for the Island? I strongly believe that communication among all of the entities on the island is important to make sure that the concerns and needs of everyone and every organization is being considered and addressed. Issues such as the erosion that is occurring on our beaches and the solutions to address it have caused conflicting positions. I would propose periodic meetings with representatives of each of these entities to discuss any upcoming or arising issues, along with long range plans for the island to obtain input and ideas for addressing those.

5. What can BHA do to help the Village with preparations for hurricane/storm protocols to reduce recovery times we have recently experienced with coastal properties? The BHA should assist in communicating up-to-date information to all property owners about the conditions on the island. The BHA may consider appointing a dedicated team to assist in assessing the overall condition of the island after the storm has passed and provide photographic evidence of the current conditions for all residents to review. It is important for the BHA to be in constant communication with its residents concerning all developments and current conditions that exist after a storm has passed, including power outages, conditions of roads, possible damage to certain properties, and the status of commercial properties.

Final Statement

Fellow BHA Members, I am running for one of the two seats on the BHA Board and would ask that you consider voting for me. I have been coming to Bald Head Island for over 37 years, and remember when we had no grocery store and there was not a single house located on the east end of our island. I have watched our island grow, and I want to be a part of making sure that growth never takes away from the reason that most of us are here which is the beauty and serenity of our gorgeous island. As an attorney for over 36 years, and a mediator for the past 2-1/2 years, I have been involved in many conflicts, and adversarial issues, and pride myself on being able to listen and understand issues that may arise, and assist in reaching solutions that all parties can live with. If I have the privilege of representing the homeowners on the BHA Board, my top priorities would be as follows:

1. Analyze, examine and work diligently to streamline the entire ARC process so that all who submit applications are treated fairly and objectively and remove all subjectivity to the extent possible;
2. Improve communications throughout the membership so that truthful and accurate information is being provided;
3. Carefully analyze the current structure of the Association to determine whether it is being operated in a cost efficient and organized way, and to seek improvements where needed;
4. Seek constant input from association members on issues that would affect the members, and our island to make sure that we are considering all thoughts and opinions and to seek new ideas and alternatives;
5. Make sure that all structures that are being built on the island comply with all applicable guidelines and regulations, including setbacks; and
6. Keep your Association dues low and spend your money wisely.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for the Board.