

## **BEST Accomplishments - 2012**

### **Responding to Events and Environmental Threats:**

- Ongoing review of all planning applications. For the year, we reviewed 65 application files and objected to 34.
- City of Hamilton Plan: BEST began its campaign to draw attention to Corporation administration and encourage them to review the previous administration's recommendation.
- Park Hyatt: After the Park Hyatt contract with Government is signed in August, BEST begins advocacy campaign to have the contract renegotiated or challenged.
- Dockyard Cruise Ship Pier: BEST met with Works and Engineering to discuss the extension of the Dockyard piers, the Environmental Impact Assessment and the possibility of stakeholder inclusion in the development plans.
- National Aquatic Center: BEST contacted relevant sources, and raised concerns over the plans for the swimming pool relating to cost, usability and sustainability.
- Published Position Papers:
  - Shipping Chanel Paper re-published in response to Dockyard Development (Royal Gazette, January).
  - BEST 'Blueprint for Sustainability 2012' completed in July and published incrementally in the Royal Gazette (Beginning October 12<sup>th</sup>).

### **Influencing Policy:**

- Astwood Park: proposal for a motocross course were challenged and scrapped.
- Spice Hill Farm Development: BEST objected to the proposed development of an orphanage/retirement home. The Development Applications Board turned town the application, but an appeal was made to the Minister.
- BEST work from the previous year paid off in many areas:
  - *Cyrus Trust Development Appeal declined*- The appeal by Minister Wayne Furbert for the declined application which BEST had worked on intensely to repeal in 2011, was dismissed in May.
  - *Southlands/Morgan's Point* – The formal transaction of lands was completed, with confirmation of cleanup being initiated in a letter from

Craig Christensen. This same letter thanked Stuart and BEST for its work to 'preserve Bermuda's natural heritage'. BEST goes on to support the ECO proposition of Morgan's Point becoming a 'green development'.

- *Tucker's Point SDO* - The Bermuda Ombudsman's report reflects BEST's consistent campaigning concerning the SDO, deeming the SDO as unlawful and challengeable in court and that a Judiciary Review was necessary. BEST met with the Tucker's representatives to present objections based on the environmental impact of the proposed subdivision, after consultation with Dr David Wingate and Mr. Tom Iliffe.
  - *Parkland's Development*- BEST is mentioned as a major stakeholder in the Parliament debate centering on the Parkland's Development.
- Continued to monitor individual planning applications to the Department of Planning, focusing on lodging objections on retroactive applications and greater transparency on applications from Trusts.
  - A higher fee was implemented by the Department of Planning for retroactive applications, reflecting BEST's wish that retroactive planning applications not be used as a means to circumvent planning regulation.
  - BEST sees a significant increase in the number of developers approaching them before submitting applications, giving BEST the reputation as *the* non-governmental resource for consultation.

### **Communications & Outreach:**

- Zanzara Trust Devonshire Marsh Development: BEST produced a video, broadcast on Island media, highlighting the major errors in the plans submitted for the development, as well as the threat posed to protected species. The appeal for the development was later withdrawn.
- Grand Atlantic: BEST petitioned the Minister to have the housing project suspended and held an informational walk to increase the public's awareness of the Government's developmental plans and oversights. Material on the developments potential problems and the impacts of costal erosion was published and distributed on the walk and throughout the year.
- WEDCO Dockyard Development: BEST worked to raise community awareness about the potential dangers and environmental impacts of the proposed development to the Heritage Docks.
- Tynes Bay Incinerator- BEST began to raise community awareness about the dangerous emissions from the Tynes Bay plant.

- BEST became a partner-organization with the Bermuda Marine Debris Taskforce, a collaboration of environmental organizations studying marine plastic pollution and developing local solutions.
- Address to Rotary Club of Bermuda very well received and broadcast extensively.
- Participated in discussions with the Chewstick Foundation on how to make their annual Beachfest Emancipation Celebration more sustainable and eco-friendly, making recommendations and encouraging participants to “take only photos, leave only footprints”.
- Bermuda’s Water Ways: Past, Present & Future event held at BUEI, showing the film “Trusting Rain” followed by a panel discussion concerning water usage in Bermuda.