**Down East Council regular meeting, February 12, 2019 at the Davis Fire Department.**

**The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Chairman Lillie Miller.**

**There were 11 members present.**

**The Secretary’s report and the Treasurer’s report were put aside for guest speakers.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**The Beaufort Town Manager, John Day gave a brief talk about how Beaufort would like to work with the Down East communities, South River and Merriman to form a coalition to work together to solve some of our common problems and improve the economic development of the area. He stated that together we have 25% of the voting power of Carteret County. Hope to get groups from all of the area to work together for the betterment of the communities and how help with future storm damages. He turned the meeting over to his wife, Christy Day, to explain about a $600,000.00 grant From the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation’s Community-Based Strategy group that is being applied to help fund this process. After the application goes through there will be a series of interviews with each community to get their views on what is needed. Need to find out what works and what doesn’t work. They need to have their plans into the Foundation by March 7, 2019 and then plan on meeting with groups around March 28, 2019. Help from the Foundation will help getting started. The funding cycle will last four years. This approach has worked well in other areas. The funds will be available to encourage people to take part. They want to involve businesses, educators and other community groups for their ideas. The Down East Council can ID partners in the process. The group discussed ways to get this up and running and to support the mission.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Susan Hill gave a brief update on future plans for the Pruitt building in Sea Level. Not much to report right now but if we/the County gets someone to go in there, that party will be responsible for Matainence of the building.**

**Susan McNamara that the Bridge Down East is planning on having a robot contest and they need someone with an engineering back ground to volunteer to run the class. Please contact Susan. She also reported that the Carteret Long Term Recovery Alliance will be having meetings around the area to help people Down East with their needs due to Hurricane Florence. One meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7 PM at the Atlantic school.**

**Barbara reported that the street cleanups are still ongoing and she hoped people will join in the efforts to clean up our road sides. The Mardi gras in February 16, 2019.**

**The next meeting will be March 12, 2019, 7 PM at the Davis Volunteer Fire Department.**