

OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2022

MAAC Members Present: Dave Allen, Donna McElroy, Mike Johnson, John Latham, and Jerry Leuters.

Guests: Joseph Jankowski

BOD Liaison: Doug Parks

1. The meeting was called to order by Dave Allen at 9:57 a.m.
2. The minutes from December 21, 2021, were reviewed and accepted. Donna emailed a copy of these to Linda Martin, OPA Office Manager, on January 18, 2022.
3. OYSTER RESTORATION PROJECT. Joe Jankowski provided the committee members with a presentation on the work being done by the Protectors of the St. Martin River and specifically the Oyster Restoration Project. Joe brought with him one of the cages that are used and shared with the members his knowledge of the use, necessary supplies, and materials used for the project. The cage can protect the oysters from bull rays and the muck at the bottom of our canals and the river, while the oysters are maturing. Joe builds these and sells them at cost to individuals interested in participating in the project (his cost is \$30.80). No license is necessary to participate, and the State of Maryland encourages property owners to participate. An individual can get up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) a year in tax breaks on oyster supplies. Seed oysters cost Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00) for 75 of them. A 3-inch oyster will filter 50 gallons of water every day. Joe explained to us the difference between diploid and triploid oysters, why you should not eat oysters in months that contain an "r" (these are the months the oysters reproduce), the time it takes for an oyster to mature, and how these oysters can further improve our environment. Joe also talked about the condition of the water in the St. Martin River, and the impact of industrial and agricultural run-off. Those interested in growing oysters off their dock or bulkhead can contact the Protectors of the St. Martin River at protectorsstmartinriver@yahoo.com.
4. DOUG PARKS. Doug will continue to serve as our liaison to the Board of Directors. Dave thanked Doug for providing us with our requested information on the new T Docks at the Yacht Club Marina.

5. BAY DAY. Sue and Doug participated in a ZOOM meeting with Sandi Smith and discussed Bay Day and Ocean Pines participation in the Marine Debris Clean-Up Program. Bay Day celebration will be in the White Horse Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the Marine Debris Clean-Up will take place from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. OP residents will be encouraged to participate in this clean up. Equipment will be provided as well as dumpsters. MAAC needs to locate an appropriate location and then promote the event. We discussed vendors, a DJ, t-shirts, and other activities. Sandi and Sue are working together on this project. We need to find out about advertising the event in the OPA weekly email.

NEW BUSINESS

6. NEWS BLAST AND FEEDBACK. John contacted the OPVFD to inquire about a gate that would curtail drivers using the Mumford boat ramp from driving through the condo's parking lot. Due to fire code this cannot be done. John also discussed new inquiries from our open letter. Members agreed we should discuss all the inquiries at a future monthly meeting. The members briefly discussed the concern about lights on the bridge, and a complaint about commercial barges in the canals. Jerry will contact the Coast Guide Auxiliary about the lights, perhaps they can go through the canals and evaluate where lights are needed.
7. JENKIN'S POINT. Sue stated that a presentation was made to the Board at a recent meeting about Jenkin's Point. The Board committed money to this project so the grant request can go forward. John asked about the timeline of the project, and the number of phases. Doug explained that there is no timeline yet. Apparently, the project is still very preliminary, and more evaluations will be completed.
8. OSPREY NESTS. John received an inquiry about our committee taking over the responsibility of the Osprey nests in and near our canals. Immediately following our meeting, Jerry contacted Liz Wist, the Education Coordinator of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. She informed Jerry that there is no one organization that maintains these nests. If it is an installed platform, the person who applied for the permit/installed it, would most likely be responsible for upkeep. She does not know whether anyone actually monitors the ones on the channel markers. Neither the Maryland DNR nor the MD Coastal Bays Program monitor them.

CLOSING

9. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Donna will not be in attendance and Sue will be taking the minutes of that meeting
10. Dave adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, Donna B. McElroy.