

**OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 20,
2022**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Attending: Dave Allen (chair), Sue Challis (acting Secretary), John Latham, Mike Johnson, Jerry Leuters. (Donna McElroy was unable to attend; new Board advisor Rick Farr was invited to attend but was not in attendance)

The meeting minutes from the August meeting were distributed.

Dave Allen thanked Donna for chairing the August meeting in his absence.

The minutes were approved by all; John moved the minutes be accepted; Jerry seconded.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Draft 2 of boating safety article that Sue wrote - several small changes were discussed and made - since it deals with boating safety, the Committee agreed it would be best to save it for publication until Spring 2023.

Charging Document - Dredging. There was discussion about the charging document, which had previously been reviewed by the committee and to which small changes were made. Dave agreed to get the document to Rick Farr for signature so that he could get it to the appropriate Ocean Pines entity for response. The focus of the charging document is to get a clear guidance on how dredging is requested by residents, how dredging is prioritized and scheduled by Ocean Pines, whether there is a cost involved, etc. Once the Committee gets answers, it can then formulate an article or guidance for residents.

Marine Debris Plunder/debris collection - after speaking with Maryland Coastal Bays (Sandi Smith), it was decided that any project having to do with debris cleanup for Ocean Pines/St. Martin's River would be tabled until Spring. Sandi indicated that she was able to carry over some of the grant funds earmarked for this year to 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Oyster Restoration - Donna has written an article on the oyster restoration efforts in the St. Martin's River that is led by Joe Jankowski. She wrote an informational article and has some photos showing how residents can participate and has sent it to Joe for review. The Committee hopes to finalize and approve the article at the October 18 meeting and work with Josh to have it published soon in This Week in Ocean Pines as well as the Bayside Gazette.

Turtle Excluders - Maryland Coastal Bays has a great brochure on excluders and has the devices themselves (that are required on crab pots) for distribution. They are planning a joint educational program in the Spring involving the need for excluders on pots (and

distribution of the devices for a small fee) in concert with a campaign to engage watermen and recreational boaters in an ongoing campaign to collect marine debris from area waterways, with an emphasis on ghost pots. MCBP is recommending a joint effort with the Committee for spring 2023 (since crab and boating seasons are winding down).

Kayak Launch and other Projects - John Latham suggested that someone from the Recreation and Parks Committee be invited to a future meeting to discuss projects we could work on together (Dave) - along with the Environmental Committee (Sharon).

Grants Available from DNR for various marine-related projects - John suggested we could all read about the grant procedures and what's available online, or perhaps we could have someone from DNR come to a future meeting to discuss.

Bulkhead and Waterway Maintenance - Mike Johnson did some research on the questions the Committee previously had regarding who pays for what in bulkhead repair and dredging. Mike distributed copies of Resolution M-07 from the Ocean Pines Association (Bulkhead and Waterway Maintenance) which gives some guidance on canal depths and owner responsibilities in waterway management. He also distributed a copy of the 2023 Budget Worksheet from the Association showing dollars allocated and spent on bulkhead repair, replacement, and dredging.

There was further discussion on the need to let the residents know who pays for what in Oceans Pines -- residents versus Association. The Committee is hopeful that the response to the charging document will provide the guidance needed, and based on that, the Committee might even propose better ways to do things - i.e., dredging projects involving multiple connecting properties on canals, rather than one property at a time. Jerry suggested once we get clarification from the Board, we might even publish a map of who is responsible for what areas in Ocean Pines regarding dredging and bulkhead repair (reference - Tern's Landing vs other parts of Ocean Pines.)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Sue Challis,
Acting Secretary