

OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

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

Guests: Sandy Smith, outreach and marketing for Maryland Coastal Bays Program

BOD Liaison:

1. The meeting was called to order by Dave Allen at 10:00 a.m.
2. This was the first meeting with our new members, so we introduced ourselves to one another and to our visitor.
3. Sandy Smith introduced herself and her organization, a nonprofit group that works with citizens, and partners with community organizations. Jerry reached out to her to speak with our committee and suggest projects we could become involved with in the ocean pines community. Sandy discussed numerous projects, including the Marine Debris Program. Jerry suggested our committee make it a project for next year. Sandy indicated that if we are interested in organizing a day for debris clean up, she will provide participants with all necessary equipment. Sandy also discussed a ghost pot project in Florida. There was a discussion about commercial crabbers' use of the Ocean Pines canals, use of the ramps, and eel pots. To keep the MAAC members informed of the Coastal Bays' projects, Sandy will be provided with contact information of the members. Donna was asked do to this before our next meeting. Jerry suggested our committee might partner with the environmental committee on a project. We learned from Sandy that Steve Farr, from the Coastal Bays Program, is scheduled to speak at the OC board meeting on November 20, 2021. Sandy is hoping to have a PowerPoint program ready in the Spring of 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Donna McElroy, read the minutes from the October 12, 2021, meeting. These were accepted. Donna will email a copy of these to Michelle Bennett.
5. At the request of our board liaison, Doug Parks, we previously discussed changing the day and time of our monthly meetings to accommodate Doug's schedule. The committee agreed to wait until we know who the new board members will be and

then Dave will contact the Board President, Larry Perrone, and inquire whether Doug will continue as our liaison. In the meantime, the committee will continue to meet the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

6. Jerry reminded us of our project to reach out to the community for their input on marine related issues, through a news blast. Sue agreed to draft a letter to appear in the weekly OPA email. She will send this out to the entire committee for approval and then Dave will forward it to Doug with our request that it be made available to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Concerns about crab pots in the OP canals, and the continuing use of the ramps by commercial crabbers was introduced. The committee decided to table these issues until the Spring of 2022.
8. We discussed the oyster restoration project and how owners of waterfront properties can participate. Apparently, this is being done at the Swim and Racquet Club. We will discuss this further at future meetings.
9. This time of the year there are problems with people blowing their leaves into the ditches and even into the canals. This needs to be brought to the attention of the community, perhaps as part of a news blast.

CLOSING

10. The next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
11. Dave adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, Donna B. McElroy.