

**OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR MARCH 21, 2023**

MAAC Members Present: Donna McElroy (acting chair), John Latham, Sue Challis (Acting Secretary), Mike Johnson, Jerry Leuters
Board Liaison: Rick Farr (attending via Zoom)
Guest: Cindy Hoffman, reporter, Bayside Gazette and OC Today

The meeting was called to order at 9:56 a.m. by Acting Chair Donna McElroy. Minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve was from Mike Johnson and seconded by John Latham.

OLD BUSINESS

Charging Document (Dredging Process) – the document from the Committee went to the Board; still waiting for more responses. Action: Take up again at the next meeting. Rick Farr will get back to us on any news from the Board. John said that once we get the response/update from the Board on the process for dredging, then we can determine whether we as a committee should communicate the “how to” of the process to the community or whether it should come from the OP Board of Directors to the residents.

Boaters’ Shower at Yacht Club marina – Mike had volunteered to check on any progress there but the door was locked. Jerry asked whether Mike noticed any repairs that were needed. He said while he was there he could see that the rubber is wearing off at one or more of the slips that could be dangerous. Jerry and John both suggested that there may be a list of repairs that will be done before the season begins, so we should recheck later.

Jerry said the slip owners should probably address problems at the marina, rather than our committee.

Board Liaison Rick Farr said if the committee wanted to provide him with a “punch list” of problems, he would get it to John Viola. John Latham volunteered to put such a list together.

Pre-Season “Party” in OP – Sue Challis reported that she had attended the most recent planning meeting for what was originally going to be a pre-summer event this year, involving all the clubs and committees in OP as a “showcase” for amenities. The group at that meeting decided that an undertaking of this size could not be accomplished in such a short time frame; a vote was taken to pursue the event for spring 2024. The group is meeting regularly to come up with a plan and a budget to present to the Board.

Sue agreed to attend future meetings only when input is needed from Advisory Committees.

Fishing Flea Market – Jerry said that about 14 spaces have been reserved for the April 22 event; he expects more sign ups. Event will be held between the Core Pool area and the Veterans Memorial the morning of April 22. Maryland Coastal Bays will have a table and plans to have a crab pot demonstrating how to put the turtle excluder devices on the recreational crab pots, will offer free devices and brochures to visitors.

Bay Day is May 7 – no action needed.

Marine Debris Cleanup – Maryland Coastal Bays has a sponsors for one event this year, to be held in the Fall. The Committee will discuss the level of participation for Ocean Pines during that event.

NEW BUSINESS

Donna asked who from the Committee would be attending the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Yacht Club. Everyone except Jerry indicated they would be there. John asked Rick Farr about the grant writer that was hired for Ocean Pines and whether that person might be available to our and other committees to help write grants during the year. Rick replied that the grant writer was hired mostly for fundraising efforts and that she would most likely not be available to the committee. There was a group discussion on grants generally – the consensus was that we need to decide what kind of projects we might seek a partnership or grant for, that we would need a statement of work for what we're looking at and to answer some basic questions such as are we eligible for any grants as a community? John said that we have raised these kinds of questions several times over the past few months and maybe we should pull some bullet points together on some specific areas in which we might seek grants. It was suggested that we meet as a group the following Tuesday (March 28) at a location TBD to hash out the big issues we'd like to address this year as a committee. Sue volunteered to get a meeting room at the OP Library for the following Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Mike raised again the questions of who or what entity in OP is responsible for updating the depths of the canals. He said he had read the charter of the MAAC and it looks like we are. Rick suggested that he send an inquiry to the OP email address and ask the question. Mike agreed to.

John mentioned that he had met someone from Assateague Coastal Trust at a recent event, and that perhaps one of their staffers could attend an upcoming meeting of our committee to talk about their programs and opportunities for us to work together.

Donna thanked everyone for attending and the motion to adjourn was made by John Lathan and seconded by Jerry Leuters.

Next meeting: Planning meeting at the Library Tuesday, March 28, 10 a.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 10 a.m., Ocean Pines Administration Building

Submitted by Acting Secretary Sue Challis