

**OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 15, 2023**

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

Board Liaison:

Guest: Jeff Heavner, homeowner and OPA BOD candidate

The meeting was called to order at 9:59 a.m. by Dave Allen.

Donna inquired whether the committee had a quorum for the last meeting, as she was out of town.

The minutes from the last meeting on July 18, 2023, were reviewed by the committee, revisions were made, and the minutes were approved. Donna will forward these to Linda Martin.

OLD BUSINESS

Rick Farr was not in attendance so his anticipated updates on his meeting with the GM regarding boat ramps and the “Remember to Wear It PFD Signs,” and adding solar lights to bridges for water navigation after dark, will be tabled for the next meeting.

The tentative date chosen for our participation in the Farmers Market is September 9, 2023. Those who indicated they can volunteer that day are Dave, John, Sue, Mike, and even Jeff Heavner.

The committee will continue its partnership with Coastal Bays and Coastal Trust, exploring grant opportunities, and assisting in the Ocean City Plunder presently scheduled for October 22, 2023. Sue agreed to continue as our liaison at the Coastal Bay meetings. There was a discussion about the fact that Orsted is the major sponsor for the Plunder and some concern was raised whether our support for the plunder would somehow indicate that we supported Orsted and their project for offshore solar windmills. Following a brief discussion, the members decided that it did not.

Sue will contact Josh Davis to publish a short blurb in the weekly OPA email, supplying a website address where boaters can register the location of debris they encounter while boating.

The members agreed to continue regular communications with the OP residents regarding boating issues and new regulations.

In June, Sue sent an email to Bill Weiland, of Maryland Coastal Bays, inquiring about MCBP’s Wetland Assessment Initiative. Specifically, she inquired whether the tidal marsh area connected to the tip of the Ocean Pines White Horse Park is or has been a part of the Assessment program. Sue indicated that she heard from Bill Weiland that an assessment of

basic information including vegetation and stability of the marsh could be done. The area we discussed is not be large enough to comply with the protocol. We would also need to obtain permission from owners of private land not within Ocean Pines. It was suggested that the Architectural committee may have answers or be able to help.

John wanted to remind the committee that we should continue to think about grants and projects. We discussed the name of a grant writer who appeared in a news article. (Valarie Mann)

NEW BUSINESS

Sue shared with us an item that can be used to measure water clarity. It is called a Secchi Disk and it can also be used for measuring limited water depth.

Donna suggested that the committee advertise a need for one and maybe even two new members for our committee. She also suggested that we advise Josh so he can put that in the weekly "This Week in the Pines."

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:53 a.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 10 a.m., in the Ocean Pines Administration Building

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna McElroy, Secretary