

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT & NATUARAL ASSETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
Peach Room – 10 a.m.

Present: Chair Sharon Santacroce, Anne O’Connell, Karen Detter, John Maziuk, Pat Gamby and Doug Parks, Board Liaison. Pat Benner attended via hybrid. Also present from the Angler’s Club were John McFalls, Lee Phillips, and James Spicknall.

Call to Order: Sharon Santacroce called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Chairman’s comments: Sharon welcomed everyone and thanked our new member, Patty Gamby, for her commitment and volunteering time to our committee. Sharon also welcomed the Angler Club members in attendance (as noted above).

Public Comments: Gentlemen from the Angler’s Club were present and discussed solutions on cleaning up around the South Pond after fishing events. They mentioned contacting Public Works to have them cut back some of the dead branches and overgrown areas around the pond that catch the fishing lines. We all agreed Public Works could greatly help remedy the problem. Less dead branches means casting lines would be straightforward and not catch lines in low lying branches and bushes. The members of the AC will contact PW.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Anne seconded by Karen and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: We skipped this item and will vote to approve at September 7th meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Plastic Bag Pollution – Tom Stauss contacted Sharon to discuss Anne’s phone call to his office. Sharon discussed that no further action or recommendations will be made to the Board on altering newspaper delivery as the issue of plastic bag contamination is limited and appears to be handled by neighbors as well as supervised by the newspaper themselves. We continue to look for a reasonably priced plastic bag with no success.
- MD 90 Corridor Improvements (as researched by John) - He concluded research since an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board is focusing on Rt. 90 highway and bridge expansion.
- South Pond Buffer Master Plan – Karen reports that plans are progressing on this project and an in-depth proposal by professionals is being prepared for our review. Karen will see if the company would like to attend our meeting for a presentation. The company’s proposal will address erosion issues as well as coming up with a hybrid plan that will allow for fishing.

NEW BUSINESS

- We welcomed Patricia (Patty) Gamby to our committee and introductions were made by all members including our guests from the Angler’s Club.

- Recent fishing event - members discussed how our one word “disappointment” given to a reporter was misrepresented into “sounding a siren” and “outrage” and “blasting the Angler’s Club” as reported by the Bayside Gazette and a community blog. Karen personally responded to the Courier in a rebuttal piece to a local resident’s opinion/commentary. The intention to contact Angler Club members to discuss the situation and solutions was torpedoed by drama that was unnecessary and frankly surprising. We all agreed the focus should be preventing innocent wildlife as collateral damage from fishing events. The Angler’s Club and our members want to prevent wildlife from being harmed at future events.
- Green Street article for next newsletter was discussed. We hope to include an article on projects that have had a positive impact in our community.
- Fishing Events – As noted above, Angler Club members plan to contact Public Works to ask for their involvement in clearing areas around the South Pond to keep fishing gear from getting tangled and negatively affecting the wildlife.
- Sewage tanks overflowing during heavy rains – We were advised that Worcester County owns and operates the Ocean Pines treatment plant. John will conduct research and report back in September’s meeting as to his findings since, regardless of who owns the plant, Ocean Pines residents are the ones directly affected during surcharge events.

Date of next meeting – September 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the East Room.

Adjourn