

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT & NATUARAL ASSETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Conference Room, Admin. Bldg. – 10 a.m.

Present: Sharon Santacroce (Chair), John Maziuk, Patricia Garcia, Tim Peck, Pat Benner, Karen Baldwin, and John Latham (who is currently running for Board of Directors). Anne O'Connell, Karen Detter and Patty Gamby were excused.

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

Chairman's comments: Sharon said we have shared 4 recommendations that are pending with Doug Parks to share with OP Mgmt. We have received an estimate from Coastal Tributaries on habitat modification around the South Pond, sent a tree planting program for replacing dead and removed trees in OP, recommended at least two monofilament fishing containers be placed at South Pond, and made suggestions for improving the Route 90 Pond trails and area.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Patricia and seconded by Tim and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Tim and seconded by Karen and approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- South Pond Buffer/Erosion Plan – Awaiting acceptance or denial. Expectations are we will hear something by October 2023 from Maryland Coastal Bays to OPA Management.
- Route 90 Pond – Doug Parks shared our list with OPA – they took action and commented/made repairs. This info was received the day after our meeting concluded.
- Tree Removal & Permitting Process – Active discussion on trees being indiscriminately removed in OP, especially ones in White Horse Park that have died. We have made recommendations on replacing those trees and shared with Doug Parks, who forwarded to OP Management. John Maziuk mentioned that the amount of trees being removed has a detrimental environmental impact to OP. Once trees are gone – it takes years to grow them back, if ever. We will contact someone in ACT to see what may be done to curb the cutting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Turtle Sanctuary – We discussed having a log tossed into the South Pond as the easiest solution. After which, we would recommend a turtle platform be installed in the pond.
- Green Street Article – Patricia Garcia volunteered to write an article on our committee's accomplishments/recommendations to OP for 2023.

- Miscellaneous – Karen Baldwin mentioned neighbors' tossing grass clippings and cigarette butts into the canal and how that is causing algae blooms and contributing to contamination of our waterways. John previously wrote an Green Street article several newsletters ago addressing this issue and voicing our environmental concerns. Our committee is trying to get the word spread that tossing yard waste into the canals is harmful to our waterways.

Date of next meeting – September 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration Bldg.
Conference Room

Adjourn