

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT & NATUARAL ASSETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
Club House – 10 a.m.

Present: Chair Sharon Santacroce, Anne O’Connell, Karen Detter, John Maziuk and Doug Parks, Board Liaison. Pat Benner was excused.

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

Chairman’s comments: None

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for our last meeting on June 15, 2022, were approved by a motion from Anne and seconded by Karen and approved by a unanimous vote of committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- New geese signs – We are pleased to see the new signs mounted around the South Pond. Other ponds should hopefully will have signs soon.

- Plastic Bag Pollution – After her investigation, Anne reports there are no contracts to deliver newspapers. The Independent has a supervisor drive by to check driveways on a monthly basis to see if papers are piling up at certain addresses to remove them from the distribution list. Residents that do not want delivery of The Independent, Bayside Gazette or Pines Progress may contact the paper directly to have them discontinued. We are looking into finding a reasonably priced biodegradable bag. Neighbors noticing newspapers piling up where no one is home are asked to toss them so they don’t get into our waterways. No further action at this time.

- Route 90 Pond – Public Works has installed a trash can in the parking lot. Two committee members walking the pond could not find any former kayak launch. The committee decided not to pursue turtle landings. Pond turtles are basking on the fallen logs already in the pond. We will circle back to any Route 90 Pond projects at a future date.

- South Pond Buffer Master Plan – Work continues on this project and Karen will pursue inviting a professional company to our meeting for a presentation of their expertise. The topic of fishing events held at this pond was brought to our attention since hooks, bobbers and monofilament lines are being left at the pond tangling birds, geese, ducks, and turtles. The last two fishing events proved deadly to our wildlife from gear being left behind. Discussions are underway to address this issue – see new business topic below.

NEW BUSINESS

- MD90 Corridor Improvements – John gave an update on his research. The Worcester County study is underway until end of 2022 and results will be published end of this year. Their goal is to improve the flow of traffic coming into OC. John said the study makes it clear they don't want to upset the environment and plans to avoid any environmental impact. John found that 20,561 vehicles travel this route on a daily basis in the summer. The committee believes any additional bike or pedestrian pathways are potential accidents waiting to happen.
- A new member application for our committee was signed and handed to Doug Parks for submission and approval by the board.
- Fishing Events – Our committee is disappointed to learn about wildlife being harmed at the South Pond. It has been brought to our attention that these events are polluting the South Pond with left behind fishing gear. We all concurred part of the responsibility should be cleaning up hooks, bobbers and especially the deadly monofilament lines. We are looking into this issue further.
- Fire Pit Rules - Regulations were discussed as residents have reported neighbors burning trash and other illegal items in their fire pits causing white smoke to linger in the backyards for hours creating pungent odors. Robert's Rules were suspended so that our board liaison could speak that the ARC guidelines regulate the use of fire pits and any violations should be reported to the Ocean Pines CPI Department.

Date of next meeting – August 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration conference room.

Adjourn