

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT & NATUARAL ASSETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 28, 2022
Conference Room, Admin. Bldg. – 10 a.m.

Present: Tim Peck (Acting Chair), Anne O’Connell, John Maziuk, Patricia Garcia, Karen Baldwin

Excused absence: Doug Parks (Board Liaison), Sharon Santacroce (Chair), Patty Gamby, Karen Detter and Pat Benner.

Non-Members present: Jeff Heavner and John Latham (OPA board candidates); Julie Murphy (spouse of OPA board candidate Jerry Murphy)

Call to Order: Tim Peck called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Chairman’s comments: With Sharon absent due a recent medical issue, the committee wished her a quick recovery. Tim clarified he was asked to act as the chair for this meeting. He stated that this meeting would review some of the issues covered in the last meeting to provide any updates.

Public Comments:

Burr Monroe president of Tributaries company gave a presentation on his work on ecological restoration around ponds in the local area. This work includes methods to mitigate geese gathering around ponds and to manage bank erosion problems. He described how typical tree rooting systems do not provide effective erosion protection and with their shading tend to limit more dense undergrowth on the shoreline. It is the dense grasses and shrubs that provide more effective bank stabilization. Geese tend to gather toward and wear down short grass borders and avoid tall grasses due to their natural instincts to avoid predators. Therefore, creating a riparian buffer with taller grasses offers multiple benefits to pond shorelines. Mr. Monroe noted that such riparian buffers could be modified to allow access for pond fishing.

This company has recent experience on shoreline stabilization at several ponds located within The Parke community. Tributaries has worked on riparian plantings and annual maintenance at these ponds. Tributaries recommends certain plants such as Hibiscus for effective plantings, and a variety of plants that sprout very colorful flowers in the spring.

Tim thanked Mr. Monroe for his presentation and noted that there would likely be future opportunities for similar work at Ocean Pines.

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

Approval of Minutes: May meeting minutes postponed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- South Pond Buffer/Erosion Plan –We continue to await word on Maryland Coastal Bay Program approval for funding grant.
- South Pond duck/geese signs: John and Anne reviewed their work in June to install 8 signs at various locations around the pond and adjacent roads. Although relatively secure, the signs require the addition of sand in the sign voids to provide more stability. However, with added

sand the signs will have considerable weight and will require more effort to move when needed. Eventually, the committee will need to develop a plan for the sand filling and seasonal placement and removal likely two times a year. We may need Ocean Pines Public Works for assistance.

- Teach a Kid to Fish Day – This 17 June event was very successful with help from Karen and Sharon to discuss the importance of clearing fishing gear to protect the environment. Karen described training provided by the National Center for Coastal Service for phytoplankton identification using microscopes. Such identification techniques can be used to assess pond water quality.
- Tree cutting fee: Karen reviewed the OPA fee for tree cutting permit is set at \$113. She noted that OPA Public Works stated that this fee has not resulted in a decrease in permit applications and that a single fee covers a complete tree cutting permit not dependent on number of trees cut.
- Green Street Article – Patricia Garcia completed the June article for the summer OPA bulletin.
- Bee house installation completed in June near the OP Community Garden in Manklin Meadows.

NEW BUSINESS

- Turtle sanctuary – topic moved to next meeting.
- Tim displayed a fishing line disposal tube, manufactured by Patty Gamby, which could be installed at certain points around the South and North ponds to allow fishermen to dispose of discarded gear. The tubes could be emptied at the end of the season for proper disposal. The committee will submit a request for approval to install tubes at the ponds.

Date of next meeting – July 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration Bldg. Conference Room

Adjourn