

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT & NATUARAL ASSETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**  
**EAST ROOM – 10 a.m.**

**Present:** Chairwoman Sharon Santacroce, Anne O’Connell, Pat Benner and Karen Detter. John Maziuk and Susan Holt were excused. Doug Parks, Board Liaison, attended via conference call.

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

**Chairman’s comments and public comments:** Sharon Santacroce thanked everyone in attendance for helping make a quorum and also made sure Doug Parks was connected and able to hear us over the conference phone.

There were no public comments.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for our last meeting on January 13, 2021, were approved by a motion from Karen and seconded by Anne and approved by a unanimous vote of committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Status of new geese signs – We celebrated good news via an e-mail from Deborah Donahue that our signs are in-house and will soon be erected around our ponds. The committee discussed where signs should be placed and Sharon will walk around the South Pond with Deborah to mark where Public Works will permanently mount them. We also discussed that signs should be mounted at each of the North Ponds, one at Bainbridge and one at the parking lot of Route 90 pond near the water.
- Prepare/finish submission to educate the board on the universe of goose control options and the ones we have used in the past decade and why. The committee voted unanimously on our document to be submitted to Doug Parks to share with the board for their consideration. At Doug’s suggestion, we also decided to prepare a presentation for an upcoming board meeting to allow the board members to completely understand our suggested plan of action and logic for growing indigenous vegetation around the South Pond.

**NEW BUSINESS – discussed the below items to consider for 2022**

- Saving the shad in the South Pond in concert with Maryland Coastal Bays – Eddie Wells is the shad expert and Sharon asked Doug if it’s acceptable to contact Eddie directly to discuss action items? No. We need to go through Doug when the time comes to find answers to questions we may have.

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- Planting indigenous vegetation or flowers that only grow 12 inches and also determine where plants might be the most offensive (i.e. fisherman) – after we hear back from the board on our summary of resident geese control history, we plan to include master gardener's to help determine best lay out of plantings. As noted in previous meeting minutes, we have to educate the board and after their buy-in, reach out to residents to educate them as to the logic of our choices. Understanding is most important in ultimately achieving our goals. Public Works can become involved as this directly coincides with the indigenous planting and keeping vegetation low around the South Pond to deter geese from nesting
- Look at erosion around South Pond and possibly planting vegetation that will help resolve this issue also – we are combining this action tem with the vegetation growth plan since it should help solve ongoing problem.
- Route 90 Pond – continue plans already discussed with help of MCB making it a nature trail with educational signs along the way. Sharon commented that the Parks and Rec Committee have already made great strides in smoothing out the pathways and placing mulch along them as well as Public Works adding pebbles. We will contact them to share ideas to help this project come to fruition. MCB has completed the topography and bathymetry for the Route 90 pond. Doug Parks and Eddie Wells have both received this information directly from Kevin Smith, MCB Director.
- Bay Day is on May 15, 2022 and we discussed coordinating efforts with Dave Allen, Chairman of the Marine Activities Advisory Committee. MCB is planning a marine plunder to have boats collect trash in the river and a dumpster will be placed at the boat ramp. Pat Benner is interested in helping with this event. Sharon will have an educational table/booth with the help of Anne and Karen.
- Anne O'Connell will send Doug Parks and all committee members a copy of the Worcester erosion brochure (Living Shorelines in Worcester County) as it may be integral to our project of growing vegetation around the South Pond and also preventing erosion long-term. John Maziuk was able to obtain this important information for our committee.
- Date of next meeting – April 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the East Room.

## **Adjourn**