

MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 16, 2022

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair Donna McElroy at 9:58 p.m.

Attending: John Latham, Donna McElroy, Sue Challis, Mike Johnson, Jerry Leuters

Minutes from the July 26 meeting were reviewed; John moved and Mike seconded to approve the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of list of projects - those that the committee has worked on during the year, many from residents who responded to the committee's call for topics of interest to the community, and some that are ongoing projects. This list will be part of the annual report the committee will soon submit to the OP Board. Jerry suggested there be two categories: Requested Action and Information Shared with Residents.
2. Update on Marine Debris Plunder project (with Maryland Coastal Bays) - event will be Sunday, October 2 from noon to 4 pm at the West Ocean City Boat Ramp (commercial fishing harbor). Sue remains in touch with Sandi Smith from Coastal Bays to get such an event organized for Ocean Pines in 2023. OP residents are invited to participate in the October Plunder.
3. Charging document review - the Committee agreed in August to create a charging document on dredging to submit to the Board. The purpose is to answer questions in order to educate the general public on how the process for dredging works in OP. The document was drafted by Chairman Dave Allen and reviewed by committee members. Under Background, an additional question was added on how funding is allocated when dredging is done in a canal where there are OPA vs community-maintained bulkheads. (such as Terns Landing vs nearby Wood Duck II). Mike said he would investigate and Donna will talk with Dave about adding it to the document.
4. White Horse Parking boat ramp parking area update - Sue reported she had been in touch with Public Works (Eddie Wells) on repairing the fence. She reported it has been repaired/replaced in some areas to keep people off the banks. Eddie agreed that erosion along the banks continues to be a problem, saying "we are losing land over there" and said he was open to discussing solutions with our Committee, as well as the Environmental Committee.
5. Draft news article (boating safety) - Sue drafted the first of what we hope will be monthly updates on various marine-related issues to be submitted by the committee to OP for publication in "This Week in Ocean Pines" and other publications. The group made some changes to the article which Sue will incorporate and resubmit the draft to everyone for a second review.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee to continue working on list of accomplishments/project for Dave's annual report to the Board.
2. The committee discussed future topics for articles including turtle excluders - Coastal Bays has purchased the excluders to make them available for anyone who would like them (for residential crab pots); boating safety, oyster restoration, and dredging.
3. John will get an update on the work proceeding on the kayak launch at Pintail Park and report.
4. John and Sue to make further inquiries about the DNR grants available for various projects. They will contact the chair of the Environmental Committee to see what they are working on and how we might work together.
5. John mentioned that a new resident approached him about joining the Committee - he is former Coast Guard and has knowledge that might prove useful to our group. John indicated he plans to submit an application.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. (John moved and Jerry seconded)

The next Committee meeting will be September 20, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Submitted by

Sue Challis, Acting Secretary