

OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 16, 2024

MAAC Members Present: Donna McElroy (acting chairperson), Sue Challis (acting secretary), Tim Connolly, Karen Steinberger, Ken Karr, Mike Reynolds, Mike Alpaugh and John Cacchio.

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Donna McElroy. The minutes from the March 19, 2024 meeting were reviewed, revisions made, and approved as amended. Karen moved to accept, and Mike Reynolds seconded the motion. Donna will make revisions and send to Linda Martin.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Donna reported on the Executive Council meeting March 28 she attended in Dave Allen's absence, and learned that that the MAAC Committee minutes, as well as the agenda for the next regular meeting should be sent in advance of that meeting to the Board (per Viola/Farr). She also said the Board requested that committees use Roberts Rules of Order. She suggested members review Res. C-01 on the functions of each committee, and how to submit agendas and minutes. Donna also said the Environmental Assets Committee and Parks and Recreation chairpersons indicated that they are interested in partnering with the MAAC on any "overlapping issues.

Donna mentioned how great this year's Volunteer Dinner was and that it was good to see so many committee members there.

Ocean Pines Kickoff – The group discussed the upcoming (April 20) Ocean Pines Kickoff and what the MAAC would be displaying. Sue showed off the new banner that will be across the front of the table. A schedule was put together of when members will be at the display table that day. Joe Jankowski from Friends of the St. Martin River will be at the table with his oyster restoration project display, will answer questions and sign up anyone interested in joining the restoration project. The new coastkeeper, Taylor Swanson, from Assateague Coastal Trust, will also be at our table, greeting people and answering questions. He will also have a limited number of "giveaways.

Communications/Articles from MAAC – Sue announced that "This Week in the Pines" had published an article on Getting Your Boat Ready for the Season (with photo). She said that Josh Davis, OP Marketing Director, had indicated that he had permission from the Board to publish future articles and that Sue should send them to him directly. The most immediate topics for the weekly email blasts in May will be Crabbing Regulations for Residential Pots (including the mandated use of turtle excluders) and The New NO WAKE Buoys just installed near the Yacht Club and the White Horse Boat ramp (explaining the difference between No Wake and 6 MPH limit.

Ocean Pines Farmers Market – we still have the option to set up a table/display any time during the season in the Community Corner of the Saturday market. No dates are set yet; we will review at each meeting whether we have news of community interest that warrants setting up a display table.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion on how we could work more effectively with other Advisory Committees, particularly Parks and Recreation and Environmental Assets. John asked how the committees

currently work together now, and if they don't, how we might make it happen. Donna suggested we invited the chairs of those committees to our monthly meetings, and that we have a representative or representatives from the MAAC arrange to do the same. She also suggested we come up with a list of issues that we might work together on for discussion. John suggested that the water testing project discussed briefly with Assateague Coastal Trust might be a good starting point. Donna said she would ask Dave Allen if we should invite the chairs of those committees to the May meeting.

Input from Residents – as a result of the publication of the MAAC's request that residents contact us with any marine-related issues, Karen Steinberger said a resident had sent in an email about plastic foam floating near the Yacht Club dock area. Mike Reynolds explained that the old docks at Pine Point Marina and the Yacht Club have floating tires filled with foam – and that's how the floating docks stay afloat. As new docks come in, they are made with new materials – and there are future plans to replace them. Mike said he could review Karen's response to this resident.

OC Wind Project –Mike reported that he will send a link to our committee members with upcoming hearings, meetings, etc. on the US Wind project. He reported that the big contentious issue right now is what US Wind will do with the waterfront property they apparently have acquired in West Ocean City. Ken asked if there had been a site plan filed for approval by the county and whether any public hearings had been scheduled. Karen volunteered to go to Planning and Zoning and see what's there. If there is any new information available before the May meeting, it will be sent to members.

Local Notice to Mariners – Ken briefly discussed how to access the web site that shows buoy locations (and any changes), aids to navigation, chart corrections and other things of interest to local mariners. He suggested we point it out in a future communication to residents. John C. said he has accessed the site and pointed out there is a lot of information there and we would need to give instructions to people on how to find District 6.

There was a brief discussion on what the budget cycle is for the Association/Board and whether there were any funds to possibly do a pilot project on testing various canal waters this year – and whether the Environmental Assets committee might be interested in supporting and partnering with us on (with the help of Assateague Coastal Trust). We will discuss further at the May meeting.

There was a brief discussion on **recycling** in the county. John C. talked about his recent tour of the County recycling facility and how they are using ground glass and shrink wrap/plastic sheets there. Sue said the county will be hosting 2 free events at the Central Landfill in Newark to recycle boat shrink wrap in early June and residents and businesses (marinas, boat storage facilities) are being encouraged to participate.

The motion to adjourn was made by Ken and seconded by John C. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m. The next meeting will be May 21, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Submitted by Sue Challis (acting secretary)

