

Marine Activities Advisory Committee Agenda

For Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Call Meeting to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Old Business

- OP Day (Kickoff Expo)
- Partnering with the Environment and Natural Assets Committee on oyster gardening and water testing in canals
- Input from resident on oyster gardening.
- Communications to OP residents (Ad vs article)
- Dredging Responses from Viola – John Latham
- Ocean City meeting regarding offshore windmills – Mike Reynolds
- Deployment date of Buoys
- Health of the Marsh assessments update – Sue Challis
- OP Farmer’s Market date(s)

Old Business Place Holders

- Continue partnership with Coastal Bays and Coastal Trust
- Boat Ramps (Place holder)
- Jenkins Point – Public meeting held on January 29 – Latham

New Business

- Volunteer Appreciation – April 11, 2024, 7:00 PM Yacht Club upstairs
- Local Notice to Mariners Article – Ken
- Executive Council meeting – Donna
- Joint meeting with Environmental Committee
- Canal Water Testing Project

Recommendations for Board Consideration

Public Comments

Adjournment

OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR MARCH 19, 2024

MAAC Members Present: Dave Allen (Chair), Donna McElroy (Secretary), Sue Challis, Tim Connolly, Karen Steinberger, Kenneth Karr, Mike Alpaugh, Mike Reynolds, John Cacchio and John Latham (Board Liaison) were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by The Chair. The minutes from the last meeting on February 20, 2024, were reviewed, revised, and approved by the committee. Donna McElroy will revise and forward these to Linda Martin.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

- **As part of our continuing partnership with community organizations visitors from Assateague Coastal Trust were introduced (Debbi Dean, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Brenda Davis, Executive Director).**

Ms. Davis provided the members with an overview of the Trust, and differentiated their purpose from that of Coastal Bay, noting that the Trust can bring lawsuits against the State and individuals. She encouraged us to report any evidence of pollution. She spoke about water testing and encouraged us to download a free app called Swim Guide that provides information on safe beach waters. On it you find your closest beaches, check the water quality and even report on pollution. The Trust is planning to purchase water test kits that residents of Ocean Pines could purchase to check the canals and water off their property. The cost is sixty dollars (\$60.00) per test kit and there are ten (10) tests in each kit. One of their outreach programs is called the Sip & Science Series. Tonight is Recycling Right, Unraveling the Mysteries of Recycling. Upcoming events include Explore the Fascinating World of Mushrooms with Goat Plum Tree Farm, on March 28th, and Old Growth Forest Network with Dr. Joan Maloof, on April 25th.

The visitors were thanked for their presentation and the MAAC meeting was reconvened at 10:41 a.m.

Boat Ramps – Nothing new.

Ocean Pines Day (Kickoff Expo) – This event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024. We discussed our table and what information we need to gather before the event.

Communications/Articles to Ocean Pines Residents –Sue Challis submitted an article to Josh Davis regarding boat safety, which will be published. Ken Karr previously drafted an article on “No Wake vs. 6 mph” we want to publish. There was some discussion about the new 6 mph buoys which are presently being stored in the boaters’ parking lot at the Yacht Club. Other topics to be published include oyster raising and boat and water safety. The Chair suggested we reach out to Cindy Hoffman who is now a freelance reporter and works with OP Progress. Sue Challis noted that crab season begins on April 1 so we might consider an article on turtle

excluders. Solicitation of comments and responses from Ocean Pines residents will be collected by Karen Steinberger. Tim Connolly again suggested that the committee consider reaching out to more residents by using Instagram and other social media venues. The Chair noted interest in different formats on the weekly OPA email.

Health of the Marsh. This will be revisited at a future meeting.

Dredging – Ken Karr informed the committee that there is a plan in place. Applications cover a period of almost three (3) years now and there are 20 projects that have been budgeted. There was discussion about the red tape involved with getting permits for dredging of the middle of the canal through the Federal Government and the Army Corps of Engineers. Ken indicated that the Federal Government pays for dredging on “navigable waters” which could even include creeks. Tim asked whether anyone knows if our canals are in good shape or bad shape. The committee discussed this briefly. Mike Reynolds suggested that we start with the WHP pier and canal out to the St. Martin’s River and see what we can find out. Mike Reynolds and Tim Connolly will explore and come up with possible suggestions.

Ocean Pines Farmer’s Market – The Committee has applied and will discuss a date at a future meeting.

Jenkins Point Meeting – A public meeting was held on January 29th. This topic is held for a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – With the exception of The Chair, all other members plan to attend. Donna McElroy will attempt to reserve two (2) tables for the committee members and their guests.

Local Notice to Mariners Article – Ken Karr advised the committee of a website called Local Notice to Mariners that provides valuable information including dredging, fireworks, buoy locations, and chart inaccuracies. The Chair indicated that we would add this to the April Agenda.

Executive Council – This is scheduled for March 28, 2024. The Chair will not be able to attend and asked Donna McElroy to attend in his place.

Windmills – Tim advised the committee of public concerns. Mike Reynolds indicated that he attended a meeting with the Mayor and General Manager of Ocean City, and he will forward information that was shared at the meeting with the committee members. This meeting was regarding offshore wind.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. upon a motion from Karen Steinberger

The next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on March 19, 2024. The Chair will not be in attendance, so Donna McElroy volunteered to chair the meeting. Sue Challis will be acting secretary for this meeting.

Donna McElroy, Secretary