

**OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 19, 2023**

MAAC Members Present: Dave Allen, Donna McElroy, Sue Challis, Mike Reynolds, Tim Connolly, Karen Steinberger, Michael Alpaugh, Kenneth Karr.

Board Liaison: John Latham

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Dave Allen. Donna reminded the old committee members to provide sufficient descriptions and explanations of the projects we have been involved in over the years so the new members have a better understanding of these.

The minutes from the last meeting on October 17, 2023, were reviewed and approved by the committee. Donna will forward these to Linda Martin. (Done on 01/14/2024).

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Board on boat ramp concerning impact of nearby ramps charging fees for out of state users.** John Latham, our board liaison, spoke to this topic. Members discussed other ramps and other communities and what they are doing. Members also discussed news articles and the Board's decision to install a card reader at the Beach Club. This may serve as a pilot for any thoughts on having similar security at the boat ramps.
- 2. Ocean Pines Day, Working Group.** Sue is our committee representative for this group, and she described the purpose of this project and the possible timeline.
- 3. Continuing partnership with Coastal Bays.** For 2024, our committee will continue its partnership with Coastal Bays. It was recommended that representatives from both Coastal Bays and Assateague Coastal Trust be invited to speak at our next meetings. Sue will follow up with this and let Dave know if she can obtain a speaker for January. Jerry informed the members that he attended a two-day conference in Ocean City sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Regional Council on Oceans. He learned more about micro-plastics and their impact on our waterways and sea life. There was some discussion about attempts in Ocean City to help clean the waters and collect trash. He mentioned that this has not been supported as much as it was in previous years.
- 4. Communications to OP Residents.** Thoughts on article topics to inform our community were discussed. These can include committee activities, community projects, new laws, and vessel safety checks. Jerry is a member of the Anglers Club of Ocean Pines and he requested that a member of our committee attend the January 13, 2024, meeting for the purpose of explaining to the group what MAAC is all about and some of our successes and projects from previous years. Donna and Ken agreed to speak at that meeting. Sue shared with the group her contact with the environmental committee.
- 5. Wetlands non-invasive measurements.** Sue spoke about her conversation with Ed Wells and her ability to obtain wetland information and some maps of the area. She also spoke with Billy Reilly, an environmental scientist. At the October meeting, John reminded the committee that we need to check with other committees to be certain we aren't duplicating efforts or to join in the efforts with other committees who might be

addressing the same matters. Sue advised that she spoke to someone on the Environmental Advisory committee and was informed that they are not involved in this project. Jenkins Point is a continuing project.

6. **Pier D spigots leading.** Donna was asked to follow up and check the spigots on Pier D for any continuing leaks.
7. **Annual Report.** Dave reported that this was submitted.
8. **Street signs on canals.** Dave will reach out to Ed Wells about this.
9. **Reserve study and continuing questions about dredging.** There was a suggestion that funds had been set aside in the reserve fund for dredging. Committee members asked the following questions:
 - a. **Is dredging of the canals in any long-term plan?**
 - b. **Could someone from the board or the community come to a MAAC meeting to talk to us about our questions and concerns?**
 - c. **Is this topic in any reserve study?**

John agreed to talk to Ed Wells about these questions and others. There was some discussion and concern that the canal from the White Horse Park ramp out to the river is so shallow that two boats cannot pass in the canal at the same time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Under the law, Ocean Pines is an HOA.** As of October of 2023, there is a new law that amends Section 11-114 of the Condominium Act concerning the mandatory insurance that is required to be maintained by the Council of Unit Owners. These changes, which took effect on October 1, 2023, differentiate between “attached” and “detached” units for insurance purposes.
2. **Resolution C-12.** The members were asked to review Resolution C-12, which defines the purpose, authority, functions, membership, and reports of MAAC, to see whether any revisions needed to be made. No one suggested a revision.
3. **Ocean Pines Farmers Market has a new procedure for obtaining a table.** Sue indicated that under the new procedure we can submit the application again if we wish to obtain a table for 2024. This needs to be done by December 30, 2023, and Sue agreed to do this.
4. **No Wake Markers.** Mike asked who is responsible for the “no wake” markers and indicated that he did not believe that the signs had been correctly placed. Other members questioned the difference between “no wake” and 6 mph markers. Ken advised that the Coast Guard establishes the speed and that the DNR is responsible for the “no wake” signs. Ken agreed to do some research on this and present it to the committee in January. Donna also asked if he would have some information on this available for their presentation to the Anglers Club of Ocean Pines.
5. **Need to fill Jerry Leuters spot in February.** The committee agreed that we should invite one of our applicants to attend the January meeting.
6. **Suggested Topics for Next Meeting.** Topics for communication to OP residents; “no wake” vs 6 mph; answers to our questions on dredging; follow-up by Donna and Ken on presentation to Anglers Club.
7. **No public comments as there were no visitors.**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m. Donna will serve as chair for this meeting and if Sue is in town, she will serve as secretary for that meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Donna B. McElroy