

OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2024

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Dave Allen. The minutes from the last meeting on January 16, 2024, were reviewed and approved by the committee; Tim moved to accept and Ken seconded the motion. Donna will forward these to Linda Martin.

New MAAC Member, Joohn N. Cacchio, was introduced.

Visitors from Maryland Coastal Bays were introduced (Ellen Turnbaugh and Liz Wist). Ellen and Liz provided the members with a slide show presentation on the programs and projects of the Coastal Bays. A general overview was presented by Ellen who stressed that their programs are aimed to enhance the ecology and the resiliency of the coastal bays, water sheds and community. It was noted by Ellen that the St. Martin's River is one of the unhealthier waters in our community. She also provided some history on the hurricane of 1933 and the creation of our Inlet. Coastal Bay projects include a terrapin survey, environmental education, field trips, summer programs, professional development, agriculture, fisheries heritage project, Bay Day, Marine Debris Plunder. Ellen mentioned a mini grant program. The deadline to apply was March 15, 2024. Their presentation ended at 11:18 and the committee returned to the regular meeting.

UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Boat Ramps – Nothing new.

Ocean Pines Day (Kickoff Expo) – This event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Our committee has submitted an application to participate in this event to Gary Miller, and we will have a table at the event.

Communications/Articles to Ocean Pines Residents –Topics suggested for communication to the residence include No Wake v. 6 MPH (Ken volunteered to do this), Oyster Raising (Dave suggested the creation of a poster), Boat Safety Information (Ken volunteered to draft this). Karen agreed to receive and collate the feedback from the community.

Wetlands non-invasive measurements. Sue said an assessment will be done in the future.

Dredging – No plan at this time but committee will consider this at the March meeting.

Ocean Pines Farmer's Market – Sue submitted our application, but no date has been set.

Jenkins Point Meeting – This topic to be addressed at our March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Dave reminded the members that the date is April 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. and will be held on the second floor of the OP Yacht Club. Please contact Dave if you plan to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. with a motion from Karen and a second from John. The next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on March 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McElroy, Secretary