

## **Minutes: OPA Environment & Natural Assets Advisory Committee Meeting January 22, 2025**

**Members Present:** Pat Ryan Garcia (Chair), Brian Burgess (Vice Chair), Pat Benner (via Teams), Patty Gamby, John Maziuk, Anne O'Connell, Don Wolski, Elaine Brady (OPA Board Member).

**Call to Order:** Pat Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Patty Gamby made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Brian Burgess and approved unanimously.

### **Approval of October 2024 Minutes**

Patty Gamby made a motion to approve the October 2024 minutes. Anne O'Connell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **CHAIR COMMENTS:**

Pat Garcia welcomed OPA Board Member Elaine Brady who was sitting in on the meeting as ENA liaison Jeff Heavner was unavailable. Ms. Garcia noted that there is increasing concern about the spread of the avian flu and that she had suggested that OPA include a warning about it in the weekly email blast. Ms. Garcia noted that the committee's regular meeting dates for November and December 2025 are again adjacent to Thanksgiving and Christmas. The members decided to hold off on deciding whether to meet on those dates.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Follow-Up on Projects Needing OPA Approval/Action**

- Signage on Fishing Gear Disposal Tubes: Patty Gamby offered to prepare a charging document requesting signs to clarify the purpose of the tubes.
- ENAC Facebook Page: The committee discussed that having a Facebook presence would allow for timely information and suggestions for OPA residents on environmental concerns such as grass clippings in canals, picking up trash, etc.

#### **ENA Committee Annual Report**

Ms. Garcia noted that the report was submitted one day late on November 1 because she did not know who was to receive the report. She suggested that OPA provide a committee chair orientation guide to clarify procedures.



### **Goose Control**

The committee discussed the use of fox and swan decoys around the OP golf course ponds that did not appear to be effective goose deterrents.

### **Winter OP Report Green Street Column**

Pat Garcia reported that she submitted an article about the committee's November 2024 visit to the Worcester County Recycling Center. The committee found the article to be very informative. There was further discussion about the visit to the recycling center and what the committee learned there. Ms. Garcia requested suggestions for the next columns and volunteers to write them.

### **2025 OPA Kickoff Exhibit**

A tentative April date for the Season Kickoff has been floated. The committee discussed planning its exhibit around a recycling theme. Ideas discussed for a giveaway at the event included a handout or magnet with information on recycling "do's and "don'ts." Patty Gamby offered to chair 2025 committee exhibits.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Horn Point Field Trip**

The committee decided to plan a visit to the University of Maryland's Horn Point laboratory sometime in May, perhaps combined with a working lunch meeting. Don Wolski offered to coordinate with the lab staff and research dates for the visit.

### **Collaboration with Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee**

Pat Garcia reported on an email exchange with R&P chair on common concerns of our committees including Route 90 Trail improvements and our sponsorship of the Swim & Racquet Club Park. A committee member mentioned that remediation of invasive vines is particularly needed at the Route 90 Trail.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Don Wolski moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. which was seconded by Brian Burgess.