

**DRAFT AGENDA**  
**OPA Environment & Natural Assets Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 10 a.m.**  
**Conference Room, Administration Building**

**Roll Call**

**Call to Order**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Approval of minutes: October 23, 2024 meeting**

**CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:**

We currently have two openings for committee members. Current members are encouraged to reach out to anyone they know who might have interest in joining our committee.

2025 meeting dates:

Note that our May meeting (Wednesday 5/28) falls two days after Memorial Day. Our August meeting (8/26) is the Wednesday before Labor Day. The fourth Wednesdays of both November and December are again adjacent to holidays. Do the members want to request different meeting dates for those months or would you prefer to not meet in November and December?

Advisory Committee Relationship:

I came across an interesting comment in the September Communications Advisory Committee minutes:

“Elaine Brady (committee liaison) reported that some of the current committees have overstepped their mission. In earlier days, there were no managers from some departments. That has since changed. She says the Board values the committees and no one wants to do away with them, but they cannot ‘overstep into operations’.”

The Clubs (Food & Beverage) Committee was suspended in 2020 and the Racquet Sports Committee was disbanded last year. Curious to know if the OPA Board is considering combining or eliminating some advisory committees. I understand that the Board was revising OPA Resolution C-01 (Committee General Policy) but was unable to find out if it has been revised. I also understand that there is supposed to be an annual Executive Council Committee meeting of all the Advisory chairs but have not received any information about that.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

- Social Media on proper use of Fishing Gear Disposal Tubes
- Permission to create ENAC Facebook page
- Anne O’Connell one-year term extension was approved at the October 26 OPA Board meeting.

**Committee Annual Report**

The report was submitted on November 1, 2024. A committee chair orientation guide would be helpful as I only found out about this required report a week before it was due.

**Goose Control**

Brian Burgess noted that the OPA Golf Course was employing fox and swan decoys around ponds that were apparently not an effective deterrent.

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

As suggested, Pat Garcia wrote about our November visit to the Worcester County Recycling Center and what we learned from it. The article titled *Recycling Right in Worcester County* Appears on Page 14. Not sure how it came to be, but ENA is apparently the only Advisory Committee that has a column. It is a great opportunity that we should embrace. The deadlines for the next reports are: Spring newsletter: March 15; Summer newsletter: June 15; Fall newsletter: Sept. 15. Would anyone like to volunteer to write an article for the Spring newsletter?

### **2025 OPA Kickoff Event Exhibit**

The Season Kickoff Event is scheduled for April 28 probably from 1-4 pm. According to the October Communications Advisory Committee minutes, Linda Yurche (Communications) and Gary Miller (Aquatics) will chair the event and every committee will have a table. Debbie Donahue of Rec and Parks will be engaged with the planning. Patty Gamby volunteered to chair ENA's exhibits for 2025 which we discussed would have a "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle" theme.

### **Litter Cleanup Event**

At our October meeting, we discussed holding cleanups at our "adopted" Swim & Racquet Club park following swim meets. We will need to obtain swim meet schedules to plan our work.

### **Worcester County Recycling Center Visit**

Our board liaison and five committee members participated in our very interesting visit to the center on November 20. Details of our visit were documented in the Winter OPA Report article.

### **Critical Areas Workshop**

The Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays held a public information meeting for the Worcester County Critical Area map updates on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 in Snow Hill. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the affected public about the Critical Areas, why the 1,000 foot boundary line is being moved, and what methods were used to update the draft maps. Were any committee members informed of this meeting and/or in attendance at it? Most of Ocean Pines properties are likely classified as IDAs (Intensely Developed Areas) where the main focus is improving water quality. This emphasizes the importance of education efforts we might initiate about pollutants that are dumped in OP canals. Perhaps we could partner with Assateague Coastal Trust to have workshop on the topic for OPA residents.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Horn Point Field Trip**

Last year, Don Wolski suggested that the Committee visit the University of Maryland's [Horn Point Laboratory](#) in Cambridge. The lab is visitor friendly and offers public tours on Tuesdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. It may also be possible to schedule a special tour on one of our committee meeting dates. Is the committee interested in scheduling a visit to Horn Point?

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

Pat Garcia exchanged emails with the R&P Chair Becky Lehnerd, noting our committee's interest in creating nature signs for the Route 90 Trail. Becky said that R&P has submitted some charging documents for both the Route 90 trail and Swim and Racquet Club but did not share them. She suggested that our committees hold a joint meeting to compare concerns. Regarding our adoption of the Swim & Racquet Club Park, there is a detailed list of responsibilities posted on the OPA site which I doubt is current and should be discussed with R&P.

## **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS ADJOURNMENT**