

**AGENDA**  
**OPA Environment & Natural Assets Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 10 a.m.**  
**Conference Room, Administration Building**

**Roll Call**

**Call to Order**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Approval of minutes: September 25, 2024 meeting**

**Chairperson's comments:**

After my initial use of Otter.ai to record and transcribe last month's meeting, I now understand that I need to identify speakers so please be patient as I do that throughout our meeting today. Do members want to continue receiving the AI-generated meeting notes?

The appointments of myself as ENA chair and Brian as vice chair were approved at the September OPA board meeting. The committee list on oceanpines.org was updated to reflect that and our personal email addresses have been removed. A new email address for the committee—Environment@oceanpines.org—was created but it is incorrectly listed as "[Environmental@oceanpines.org](mailto:Environmental@oceanpines.org)." A test of the *correct* address demonstrates that the email is forwarded to committee members. Do we want to continue having our phone numbers posted on the OPA site?

Regarding posting of our committee's minutes and videos, none have been posted since the July 2024 meeting. Are all posting and other requests of the administration supposed to be submitted to Linda Martin?

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

- Update on Turtle Sanctuary Charging Document submitted February 2024
- Social Media information on Fishing Gear Disposal Tubes
- Permission to create ENAC Facebook page
- Term extensions for committee members Anne O'Connell and Karen Detter (applications submitted to board liaison)

**Goose Egg Addling**

See [2018 Bayside Gazette article](#) about USDA help with the Geese. This is the "culling" event that was misrepresented and led to community backlash. Also the South Gate Pond shoreline hardening/habitat modification project that was approved last year should discourage some goose nesting. I was unable to contact A-1 Wildlife Services of Lincoln, Delaware, who were suggested as a potential egg addling vendor. They may no longer be in business. Also see the Maryland's Department of Natural Resources document [Controlling Conflicts with Resident Canada Geese in Maryland](#).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS, con't.**

### **Litter Cleanup Event**

Reviewing minutes that mentioned this project, it was suggested that we team up with the Surfriders Foundation (Ocean City Chapter). It seems that their focus is on the Atlantic beaches. The only beaches that directly concern Ocean Pines are on the St. Martins River (Swim & Racquet Club) and at the Beach Club. We have already “adopted” the Swim & Racquet Club.

### **Fall OP Report Greenstreet Article**

The article titled “Embracing Native Trees” appears on page 16 of the fall Ocean Pines Report and has also been promoted on OP social media. Suggestions for the next article for the Winter edition?

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

As discussed at our last meeting, I have requested a tour of the center on November 20, 2024, in lieu of a November meeting.

### **Critical Areas Laws Workshop**

Taylor Swanson of Assateague Coastal Trust reported the following: “We had hoped the critical areas commissioner and others at the county (Worcester) would be willing to have a public meeting with residents (and developers) in Ocean Pines. They unfortunately did not want to participate in such an event. I think it's worth an additional conversation with a small group, including the OP Environment Committee, to talk about the issue you are seeing (regarding the critical area) and reevaluate how we might be able to address the problem.”

### **2025 OPA Kickoff Event**

There was a discussion of plans for this event at the September OPA board meeting but as the minutes for that meeting have not yet been posted perhaps Jeff can provide an update.

### **Committee Sponsored Oyster Cage (Swim & Racquet Club Gazebo)**

Committee member Don Wolfski has relocated the cage and will maintain it through December 2024. Is there a volunteer for first quarter 2025 maintenance? I can resend the maintenance instructions to whomever volunteers.

### **Request Regarding Wind Turbines**

The chair circulated a draft response to the request to committee members reflecting the vote at the September meeting. Receiving no suggestions for changes, it was sent it on to Mr. Clarke. The email response reads as follows:

*Dear Mr. Clarke,*

*At our meeting on September 25, The Ocean Pines Association (OPA) Environment & Natural Assets Advisory Committee (ENAC) discussed your request for the committee to consider making a recommendation to the OPA Board regarding the proposed wind turbine project on the Ocean City coastline.*

*You noted that Ocean Pines' state and county elected officials and the Ocean City mayor have expressed opposition to the project and suggested OPA publicly support their positions. Your email warned of negative impacts on the Ocean Pines and Ocean City environments.*

*Some ENAC members have attended presentations on the wind turbine project and all members had knowledge of it. We discussed some of the potential environmental benefits and risks and the lack of sufficient data on them. In a unanimous vote, the ENAC committee decided to refrain from making a recommendation to the OPA board regarding the wind turbine project.*

*Thank you for your past service on the ENAC committee and the OPA board.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Plans/Ideas for 2025 ENA Committee Exhibits**

At our September meeting, Patty Gamby suggested that our exhibits focus on responsible recycling and promoting the “Reduce-Reuse-Recycle” theme. One idea is to demonstrate some creative ways to reuse or “upcycle” items that would ordinarily wind up in the trash or recycling bin. Another idea is to create a “recycling hierarchy” chart listing the most desirable to least desirable items that wind up in Worcester County’s bins.

## **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**