

(Approved) Minutes of the Marine Activities Advisory Committee

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna McElroy (Chair), Sue Challis (Secretary), Ken Karr, John Cacchio, Michael Alpaugh, Mike Johnson – Attending remotely: Board liaison John Latham, Tim Connolly

CALL TO ORDER: Donna McElroy called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM: Parliamentarian John Cacchio reported there was a quorum. Donna introduced a new/returning member, Mike Johnson, to the Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ken Karr wanted to add a discussion of the Route 50 bridge restrictions coming up in January. A motion was made by John Cacchio to amend the agenda and seconded by Tim Connolly. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MIUNUTES FROM OCTOBER 15, 2024: A motion was made by John Cacchio and seconded by Michael Alpaugh to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Copies will be sent to Donna McElroy, Linda Martin, our board liaison, and the Board president.

REPORTS

Water Testing Project – Sue Challis reported that she and the Coastkeeper, Taylor Swanson, will give a presentation to the Ocean Pines Board on this project at their regular November 28 meeting. She will email a copy of her outline for the presentation to John Latham for distribution to the Board members before the meeting and to all MAAC members.

Oyster Cage at the Yacht Club Marina - John Cacchio reported all is well with the cage at the marina. He said he would like to pursue a second cage in the Spring, hopefully with some kind of educational signage about the project. He mentioned that the Horn Point project (University of Maryland) in Cambridge (which provides the seed oysters for Ocean Pines residents) could be of help to us in getting language together for the sign. John Latham said that the committee should pursue Board approval for signage before seeking outside help. John said the process would be for John Cacchio to send an email to him, then he would approach John Viola, get a response and bring it back to the committee.

Comments from residents – None received this month, per Michael Alpaugh. Sue reported that when the latest MAAC article was published in “This Week in Ocean Pines”, she included the new email and information about how to contact the committee at the end of the article. It was recommended that any article going forward should carry that information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES

MAAC member needed to attend other advisory Committee meetings: Donna led a short discussion on which committees a representative from the MAAC should work with/attend meetings. It was decided that Parks and Recreation and the Environmental and Natural Assets committees would be the two most relevant for us to communicate with more closely. Our new/returning member, Mike Johnson, will consider filling the liaison role.

At the last meeting, Donna asked for **point persons from the committee** for the following areas. The assignments are currently as follows:

Articles and press, contact with Josh Davis – Sue Challis

New laws affecting boaters, vessel safety notices – Ken Karr

Liaison to community resources (i.e., Protectors of the St. Martin River, Assateague Coastal Trust, Maryland Coastal Bays) – Sue has contacts for all these – she will get a list to Donna; we will discuss further at the January meeting

Parliamentarian – John Cacchio

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Karr asked for some time to present some information he had found recently on the **Delaware Indian River Restoration** project. He pointed out that this project and others underway could affect our water quality in Ocean Pines. He handed out a recent news article that outlines the activities of Delaware's Center for Inland Bays and suggested that we contact someone from this group to come and talk to us about their efforts and how we might work together in the oyster restoration and other projects.

Route 50 Bridge Maintenance - Ken distributed information from the Department of Natural Resources concerning the maintenance scheduled for the US Route 50 Bridge over the Isle of Wight Bay in Ocean City. The work begins January 2, 2025 and continues until March 17, 2025. He suggested that we should ask Josh Davis if a notice could be included in the "This Week in Ocean Pines" to alert any fishermen or boaters who may be unaware of this. Ken also said there are some navigation and shoal reporting changes in Sinepuxent Bay that could affect boaters in Ocean Pines that could also be reported. Ken agreed to write up a Notice to Mariners Alert on the Route 50 Bridge. There was also discussion on whether it should be something that should get wider press than just Ocean Pines.

John Cacchio commented that these kinds of notices should be a regular part of what this committee sends out to residents -- that the MAAC should be considering boater safety as foremost on our agenda, and that we should disseminate any changes to the community.

December Meeting – There was a discussion on whether MAAC needed to meet in December, given that so many people are out of town for the holidays. It was decided we would not meet in December. Donna McElroy will notify Linda Martin.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting will be January 21, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Submitted by: Sue Challis, Secretary

MAAC: The purpose of this committee is to advise the Board of Directors on policies and concerns relating to marine activities affecting the Ocean Pines subdivision.

