

**OCEAN PINES MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 2023**

MAAC Members Present: Dave Allen, Donna McElroy, Sue Challis, Mike Reynolds, Tim Connolly, Karen Steinberger, Michael Alpaugh, Kenneth Karr.

Board Liaison: John Latham

Guest: None

The meeting was called to order at 9:58 a.m. by Dave Allen. Dave introduced the new members.

The minutes from the last meeting on August 19, 2023, were reviewed and approved by the committee. Donna will forward these to Linda Martin.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Update from Rick Farr on his meeting with the GM.** Because Rick is no longer our liaison, John Latham has taken the lead on communications with the Board. This matter was tabled at our last meeting. John Latham indicated that he spoke with John Viola who was looking into our concerns about boaters outside of our community who are utilizing our boat ramps and a possible increase in their use. John Latham asked John Viola to please include the MAAC about any discussions as to what may or may not be recommended, (for example, a gate at each of the ramps). Dave agreed that the committee would like to be included in any relevant dialogue. Sue shared with the new members that our concern grew out of a recent pilot project in Bishopville where they are charging ten dollars (\$10) for access to their boat ramp. Karen suggested a need for dredging at the Whitehorse Park boat ramp. As to the topic of adding solar lights to the bridges for water navigation after dark, John Latham reported that John Viola had tabled that matter. John also addressed mentioned the PFD signs. These "Remember to Wear It, PFD Signs" can be purchased for \$30 (for 20m signs).
- 2. Farmer's Market.** Sue spoke with Sandi Smith from Coastal Bays, as they are actually sponsoring our table and providing educational materials. It has been decided that our participation in the Ocean Pines farmer's market would be postponed until the Spring of 2024. Karen mentioned that she works with Joe Jankowski on the Oyster Restoration Program, a topic we hope to highlight at the farmer's market. Karen also shared with the committee information about a new scallops project by Coastal Bay. Donna suggested that we might invite someone from Coastal Bay to attend an upcoming meeting of our committee to educate us this project and its benefits to our waters.
- 3. Continuation of partnership with Coastal Bays and Coastal Trust.** Sue updated the status of the Marine Debris Plunder. This will take place on Sunday, October 22, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants will be given a Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) gas card. Three (3) boats are registered, and they will be bringing their "loot" to the WOC Harbor. Captain Jack Sparrow will be in attendance to reward the participants.
- 4. Communications to OP Residents.** Tim suggested that the committee consider other ideas for utilizing social media to communicate and inform OP residents. The committee

discussed the proper procedure for having articles shared with the community. Sue volunteered to draft an article regarding the end of the season. She will share the draft with members for any revisions or input.

5. **Wetlands non-invasive measurements.** Sue spoke about her conversation with a member of Coastal Bays (Billie Wieland) and explained this project to the new members. She spoke with Ed Wells who provided her with a copy of the site plans. John reminded the committee that we need to check with other committees to be certain we aren't duplicating efforts or to join in the efforts with other committees who might be addressing the same matters. Mike Reynolds spoke of erosion around the bulkhead from the Mumford boat ramp to the Pines Point Provisions building.
6. **Pier D spigots leading.** Donna addressed this issue not as a member of the committee but as an OP resident through info@oceanpines.org and reported that the one she reported was repaired. She also noted other leaking spigots and stated she would check all of the spigots on Pier D and follow up if necessary.
7. **Marine and Gas Pier Closes.** Dave reported that this will be closing at the end of October.
8. **New Kayak Ramp.** Dave reported that a new handicap accessible kayak ramp was installed at Pintail. Mike Alpaugh reported that it appears they are also paving the entrance and parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **The Annual Report is due October 31, 2023.** Dave will provide us with his first draft of this report before October 23rd.
2. **John Latham's email project.** Members agreed to continue this project.
3. **Sue Update on OP Day.** Sue is our liaison for this event. The individuals working on this event did a presentation to the Board of Directors. John was present at that meeting and indicated that they provided an excellent presentation and that it was obvious that they had done a great deal of work. Sue stated that the event is presently planned for April 2024. She will keep us updated.
4. **Suggested Topics for Next Meeting.** Scallops Project and John's email / spreadsheet project.
5. **No public comments as there were no visitors.**

It was agreed that our November meeting will be cancelled due to holidays. Dave will contact the committee about the next meeting. This meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Donna B. McElroy