

Unapproved (II) Minutes of the Marine Activities Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 AM

Members Present: Donna McElroy (Acting Chair), Sue Challis (Acting Secretary), Ken Karr, Tim Connolly, John Cacchio, Michael Alpaugh

CALL TO ORDER:

Donna McElroy called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM:

Donna McElroy reported there was a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by John Cacchio and seconded by Ken Karr to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by John Cacchio and seconded by Tim Connolly to approve the minutes from the August 20 meeting. Copies will be sent to Linda Martin, our board liaison, and the Board President.

REPORTS:

Water testing pilot project: Sue Challis reported that the water testing and reporting project in conjunction with Assateague Coastal Trust will continue through October 23. She will contact Taylor Swanson, ACT Coastkeeper, to go over the final results later in the month and prepare a report for the November MAAC Meeting. There was a discussion on whether we should ask for some time at the next Ocean Pines Board Meeting (October 26) to report on the water testing project, partly in response to comments made by a resident at a recent board meeting (and reported on in The Progress newspaper), who complained that nothing is being done about water quality in the canals. Sue will contact John Latham (who was unable to attend today's meeting) for guidance on whether a presentation to the Board is supported.

Oyster Cage at Yacht Club Marina – John Cacchio reported that the oyster cage in Mumford's Landing is in place, and suggested we work on getting educational signage of some kind to bring attention to the ongoing oyster gardening project in Ocean Pines. This could both promote our committee's initiative and encourage more residents to participate in the project. Sue Challis suggested we send a photo and explanation to Josh Davis for possible publication. A suggestion was made to place a second cage at the Yacht Club.

Comments from Residents – Michael Alpaugh reported that the notice soliciting comments from residents was published in “This Week in Ocean Pines”, but with the incorrect email address for residents to respond. The correct email is malpaugh.maac@gmail.com Michael will contact John Latham and Josh Davis to facilitate re-running the notice with the correct address.

Parliamentary Procedure – John Cacchio has agreed to be the committee’s parliamentarian and will advise the committee during meetings on Robert’s Rules of Order.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed Charging Document/Request for OPA Board Action by the “Joint Advisory Committee” – Donna McElroy reported that she had received and distributed a revised copy of this document from Gary Miller, chair of the Aquatics Committee. After a brief discussion, the MAAC members agreed that this had already been addressed at our last meeting and required no further action.

Attending Environmental or Other Advisory Committee Meetings – Donna mentioned that our guest at the September MAAC meeting, Don Wolski (Environmental Assets Committee) had encouraged members of the MAAC to attend their monthly meeting, indicating that there are several areas of overlap that we might want to work on together. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion on how to inform/educate residents on “Best Practices” when it comes to fertilizing, cutting grass and other actions along Ocean Pines canals. Tim Connolly said that unless we can also educate and inform the lawn services operating in the Pines about state and other rules pertaining to fertilizing and disposing of lawn waste, we wouldn’t be reaching a lot of the people who need to know. Sue Challis passed around a flyer that was developed several years ago by Assateague Coastal Trust explaining the regulations in simple terms. She will talk with ACT to explore ways to reproduce an updated flyer. Committee members agreed that we should pursue ways to distribute this to residents (and possibly lawn care companies). We will discuss further at the October meeting.

Fundraiser/Meet and Greet with OPA Board Members – Donna McElroy announced that there will be a social event at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club October 25. A portion of the proceeds will go to The Penquin Swim, an annual fundraiser for Atlantic General Hospital.

Ideas for Next Meeting Agenda – Tim Connolly suggested that we invite Joe Jankowski, Friends of the St. Martin River, to our next meeting, to see how we as a committee can help promote the oyster restoration project. Joe currently makes and sells the oyster cages many growers use, and coordinates with Maryland Coastal Bay to collect the oysters several times a year so that they can populate the two oyster reefs located along the St. Martin River. Donna will reach out to Joe.

Public Comments – None

ADJOURNMENT: The motion to adjourn was made by Michael Alpaugh and seconded by Tim Connolly. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, at 10 a.m.

Submitted by Sue Challis, Acting Secretary