## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, April 11, 2022**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Kathleen Lock. Council members in attendance were Bob Wood, Joanne Plescia, Harry Ward and Larry Meinert. Due to the Covid-19 virus the meeting was held via Zoom link and in-person. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign in sheets.

Mayor Lock thanked everyone for attending and requested everyone remain on mute unless asked for input from the public. For record keeping, residents must give their name and street address prior to addressing everyone in attendance.

1. **Correspondence:**

-Mayor Lock read a letter from town resident Tom Marker questioning the decision to change the meeting style and limiting public comment to the start of the meeting. The Mayor reiterated the need to respect everyone’s time while still accomplishing town business and advised this is under review.

-Mayor Lock read a letter from Karen McGrath in Sen Carper’s office announcing a USACE feasibility study using $910,000 for the design and preconstruction engineering for a dredge project including Slaughter Beach (monies from the Infrastructure Act).

1. **Special Guest, Danielle Swallow**

**Danielle Swallow represents Delaware Sea Grant and WIIN (Waterways, Infrastructure, Improvements Network) and works at the University of Delaware.**

Ms. Swallow introduced the work that she has been doing with the Town of Slaughter Beach as well as the City of Milford using grants from the National Coastal Resilience Fund and Sea Grant totaling $220,000 for a two-year project. The goal is to carry out an economic valuations study of the intangible assets of the Mispillion and Cedar Creek Watershed. Danielle requested ideas from local residents that might improve access to the area without degrading the natural environment. Something to promote tourism and bring revenue to the area.

1. **Approval of the March 14, 2022 Town Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Bob Wood and seconded by Harry Ward to approve the March 14, 2022 Town Council Meeting Minutes. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

1. **Approval of the April 11, 2022 Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Harry Ward to approve the April 11, 2022 Town Council Meeting Agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. **Public Forum** no questions raised from attendees online or in person.
2. **Tony Pratt/Sand on the Beach:**

Now is the time to discuss money from the Bond bill and we’ll be speaking again with Dave Wilson to see if he has heard back from DNREC about getting Slaughter Beach on the Agenda for beach replenishment. Tony Pratt’s understanding is DNREC is considering another haul project for the fall but no definitive information yet.

1. **Reports:**
2. **Treasurer’s Report**

Joanne Plescia, reviewed the Treasurer’s Reports, attached.

A **Motion** was made by Bob Wood to accept the Treasurer’s Reports pending audit and seconded by Harry Ward. **The Motion passed 5-0**

1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Harry Ward reviewed the report, attached.

1. **Streets Report**

Jimmy Dalton reported last Friday DelDOT resurfaced Route 36 just north of Beach Plum, completing the job from when they ran the culvert under the road, and DNREC was out today and building up the escarpments from Delaware South down to Simpson so the accesses would be safer.

1. **Memorial Fire Company**

Mayor Lock advised the Town Council needs to pass a Resolution 22-02 to approve the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company to provide services to the Town of Slaughter Beach for the fire company to use in guaranteeing their loan with the bank for construction on Slaughter Beach Road.

A **Motion** was made to approve said Resolution 22-02 by Larry Meinert and seconded by Harry Ward.

**The Motion passed unanimously 5-0**

1. **Mayoral and Council updates**

Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) – Bob Wood will attend the next meeting.

Association of Coastal Towns – no update

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – The legislative breakfast will be at the end of this month.

Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) – no update.

1. **Sewer District**

Mayor Lock advised our Application and Notice of Intent was submitted to the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council (WIAC) and we hope they can take it up at their next meeting in June 2022.

1. **Grants and on-going projects**
2. **University of Delaware Hydrology Study** – Mayor Lock – The study was received and is on the website for everyone to read. Council is considering all recommendations.
3. **Sea Grant** – Mayor Lock – no update on the oyster nursery
4. **WIIN Project/PEW Charitable Trust** – no update.
5. **ARPA (American Recovery Act)** - Joanne Plescia advised the second installment will arrive in June for $130,000 in all. Council is working on a Plan to use the monies for Capital Improvement
6. **Updating the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – Joanne Plescia advised this is ongoing, there have been two meetings with the fire department and there will be more**.** Town Council will consider having block captains for managing information reference residents needs in an emergency.
7. **Drainage Issues in the 590 Block** – Mayor Lock reiterated that the drainage issue was covered a bit in the hydrology study – 590 to 640 block of Bay Avenue will hear from Town Manager about a meeting with DelDOT the first or second week of May.
8. **New Business**

**Discussion and possible vote on hiring an Intern from St. Joesph’s College -**  Julia Geha addressed residents and Council advising a political science and communications major would like an internship to meet his requirements for graduation. There is a list of deliverables with a checklist and Julia will be his direct report.

A **Motion** was made by Joanne Plescia to approve a $15 an hour for a maximum of 160 hours stipend for an intern summer of 2022 and seconded by Harry Ward. **The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

1. **Stairs on the Beach** – Kathy Lock advised that Jennifer Pongratz at DNREC has given us a permit for construction of temporary stairs on the beach for residents to use (on website). Because we are hoping to have sand on the beach in the Fall, all stairs must be removable. There is no fee for the permit. Harry Ward offered to look into building temporary stairs at the public access roads.
2. **Bay Beach Working Group –** Slaughter Beach will be hosting the Governor’s office, our State and local legislators, USACE, DNREC, Sussex and Kent County leadership as well as all town Mayors and leaders along the Bay down to Lewes. This is an effort to keep pressure on DNREC to fund beach renourishment.
3. **Board of Elections –** Cynthia Lyons, James Dalton and Pamela Catalano to be sworn in – Cynthia declined and Ann Hollander offered to take her position. We need three volunteers to work the Polls on election day.
4. **Upcoming Events:**

* Newsletter will go out at the end of April 2022 – additions can be sent to the office.
* Horseshoe crab spawning survey training on Saturday April 23rd 1-2pm at Marvel Drive.
* The next Town Council Meeting will be May 9, 2022 via zoom and in person at 7pm.
* The first roll-off dumpster for landscaping will be at Bridgeham on May 27th.
* May 28th the Coast Guard will offer boat safety checks at the fire company parking lot.
* May 28th the Town will advertise the Annual Yard Sale on Slaughter Beach, no rain date.
* May 31st will be the bulk item pick up by Republic Services.
* June 4th will be the Annual Town Meeting at 10am – must file to run for office by this date.
* June 19th Father’s Day breakfast by the ladies Auxiliary at the firehouse, $10 per person.
* Memorial Fire Company Craft Show hosted by the ladies Auxiliary to be held on July 2nd.
* Town Election is July 2nd at the Memorial Fire Company, details are on the website.
* 5K Greenhead race – September 18, 2022 – we are looking for volunteers!

1. **Adjournment:**

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia to adjourn the Meeting and was seconded by Harry Ward at 8:36 pm.

**The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**