## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, April 10, 2023**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**:

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

1. **Approval of the March 13, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes**:

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Larry Meinert to approve the March 13, 2023, Town Meeting Minutes.

**The Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.**

1. **Approval of the April 10, 2023, Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion:** A Motion was made by Larry Meinert and seconded by Harry Ward to approve the April 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting Agenda.

**The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.**

1. **Reports:**
   1. **Kathy Lock/Sand on the Beach/Bay Beach Working Group:**

Kathy Lock is President of the Bay Beach Association (BBA) and presented for Tony Pratt. USACE (US Army Corps of Engineers) continues to work with Tony on the Section 1-11 study and moving it forward. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which is attached to the National Defense Authorization Act has passed and now, through the Bay Beach Association (BBA), we are putting pressure on the State and requesting help from the County of Sussex as well as Kent to amass the 10% of funds needed to match the Federal assistance.

BBA will have a meeting tomorrow, April 11, 2023, here at the firehouse in Slaughter Beach and Senator Carper and his staff along with dignitaries from State and County as well as local governments will be in attendance to discuss next steps with USACE and DNREC.

Once that meeting takes place, we expect to have a clearer picture of where we can get the 10% required match, and when we would need to have formal agreements in place for USACE and possibly DNREC to move forward.

* 1. **Report/Bill Tobin:** Bill Tobin was not able to attend the meeting, nor was the Chief, Kent Glasco. We have been advised the Ambulance is making more calls than in previous years but had no further update.
  2. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Harry Plescia reported on the finances for the Town including the Cash, Reconciliation, Profit and Loss Budget and Grants.

A **Motion** was made to approve the Treasurer reports, pending audit, by Larry Meinert and seconded by Ben Monastero.

**Motion passed unanimously 4-0.**

* 1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Ben Monastero read the report submitted by Bob Clendaniel (attached).

1. **Mayoral and Council updates:**

ADDED: Bob Wood asked Larry Meinert to give some feedback on “Hill Day” in Washington DC which both Larry and Ben Monastero attended. Touching on beach erosion, the sewer and federal money needed to complete the project, as well as repair of the Mispillion River jetty by the USACE – both Larry and Ben were able to speak with Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester and US Senator Tom Carper (?) directly to help keep their focus on our Town and issues affecting our area.

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – This month’s meeting conflicted with a WIIN (Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network) gathering to wrap up the grant in Milford, so we did not attend. We did know in advance that it would be the annual meeting for local politicians to come and present and are comfortable that we didn’t miss anything that would influence the Town.

Board of Elections: **Kathy McFadden, Town Clerk** is the official coordinator for elections in Slaughter Beach. We have two members for the Board of Elections and are seeking a third. If you would like to run for office, the deadline to file for election is June 2, 2023, at 5pm. If we have competition for positions on the Town Council, the election will take place on July 1, 2023. Two positions are up for election – Harry Ward and Larry Meinert. For more information, see the website, <https://slaughterbeach.delaware.gov> or contact [townclerk@slaughterbeachde.com](mailto:townclerk@slaughterbeachde.com)

1. **Grants and on-going projects:**
2. **Sea Grant** – Bob Wood we have returned to the testing agent to see about other possible sites since the Dupont Nature Center is not interested in having the tanks set near their facility.
3. **OPRT (Outdoor Parks, Recreation and Trails) Grant** – Harry Ward advised that the Council has reviewed all submitted proposals and believe they have found a very reasonable bid that would be within budget. Changes were made to the original RFP because costs on constructing a Pavilion in that area would have taken the price over the money we have from the Grant.
4. **WIIN (Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network)** has ended. A gathering was held at the pavilion in the City of Milford where Danielle Swallow thanked all the contributions by individuals and organizations to help us put a monetary value on the Mispillion and Cedar Creek, as well as creating a branding strategy for both of our Towns to use moving forward.
5. **Sewer District –** We get questions regularly on this and the best advice we can give is to expect this to take three years or more before the sewer reaches your individual homes in Slaughter Beach. At this time, the County is still doing the engineering study and expects that to be finished at the end of 2023.
6. **Debris on the Beach –** We will continue to clean up items we discover or are alerted to on the beach. If you see an item on the beach that is too large for you to pick up and throw away, please send a photo to any of your representatives on Council or [townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com](mailto:townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com)
7. **Emergency Operations Plan/Seaside Envoy:**

Harry Ward and Bob Wood reported that the Seaside Envoy program has been going very well, and with some small corrections the Emergency Operations Plan will be submitted by the due date in May 2023. Bob Wood advised that after careful review, the DENS (Delaware Emergency Notification System) which is mentioned in the EOP is not something we had previously been telling our residents about so this will be added to the Smart911 program. DENS is a state-run program that requires registration of your mobile telephone for you to be notified in an emergency – Smart911 is a registration program operated by the County for emergency responders.

1. **Phragmites\*** – Most contracts on file are from 2019 – please complete a new contract and submit in

order to be on the spray list for this Fall. Go to the webpage – it’s under “Town Projects”.

1. **Open Forum:**

The Board of Elections requires three candidates, and we have two committed. If you are willing, please notify anyone on Council. We will also need poll workers on the day – which would be July 1, 2023, this year.

If you want to run for office, two seats can be challenged (currently held by Harry Ward and Larry Meinert) – you should file by June 2nd at 5pm. For forms, you can look on the website or contact townclerk@slaughterbeachde.com

1. **Upcoming Events:**

* May 8, 2023, Town Council Meeting at 7:00pm.
* The yard waste containers will start again May 26 at Bridgeham.
* Memorial Day weekend is the townwide yard sale, officially advertised as May 27th from 9am until 2pm. You can run your yard sale the entire weekend but that is the time/date that will be advertised.
* Large item pick up, which cannot include any materials from construction projects, will be May 30th, if you have questions about what is allowed, go to [www.republicservices.com/residents/bulk-waste](http://www.republicservices.com/residents/bulk-waste) and scroll down the page.

1. **Adjournment:**

A **Motion** was made by Ben Monastero (?) and seconded by Harry Ward to adjourn at 7:53pm.

**Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

Town Calendar is published on the website <https://slaughterbeach.delaware.gov>

\*Phragmites can be found under “Town Projects” “Phragmites”