



Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2024

1. **The Regular Town Council Meeting** was called to order by Bob Wood, Mayor at 7:00pm. Council members present in addition to Bob Wood; Joanne Plescia, Jamie Draper with Harry Ward on zoom. Community members in attendance, in person and online, are listed on the attached sheets.
2. **Approval of the August 12, 2024, Town Meeting Minutes: A Motion** was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Jamie Draper.
The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.
3. **Approval of the September 9, 2024, Meeting Agenda: A Motion** was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Jamie Draper.
The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.
4. **Correspondence**
No correspondence to report
5. **Reports:**
 - a. **Report/Tony Pratt:** Reference the **Section 1-11** project with the US Army Corps of Engineers, conversations reference the potential dredging of the Mispillion River and repair to the jetty continue. At this time they are completing their study of the problems we face and until that is complete, there is no movement forward. Reference the **Bay Beach Association's** work to garner funding for beach replenishment for Slaughter Beach and many other members, they have accumulated funding and the governor has signed the "Design Agreement" with the US Army Corps of Engineers. USACE will now move to the designing stage so there is not yet a "plan" for replenishment.
 - b. **Treasurer's Reports:**
Joanne Plescia presented the general fund, operating account, RTT (Realty Transfer Tax) account and grants ending August of 2024. A question was raised as to whether there have been adjustments made for RTT money to be used, but to date any loosening of restrictions has not favored the work we do here on Slaughter Beach.
A Motion was made by Jamie Draper to approve the Treasurer's Reports ending August 2024 pending audit or review and seconded by Harry Ward.
The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.
 - c. **Building Inspector's Report:** Jamie Draper read the report submitted by Bob Clendaniel (attached).
6. **New Business:**
 - d. The Emergency Operations Center in Sussex County would like to have a hurricane preparedness meeting for residents of Sussex County here on Slaughter Beach. We are considering September 25, 2024 at 6:30pm in the firehall and on zoom, and will make an official announcement through the email Kathy McFadden sends almost weekly.



7. Mayoral and Council Updates:

- e. **FEMA** (Federal Emergency Management Agency) arrived in Slaughter Beach with a representative from DEMA and representatives from Sussex County Planning and Zoning in addition to Bob Clendaniel to have a **Community Assistance Visit**. The Town has been sent a full report and Bob Wood and Bob Clendaniel are hoping to meet with the County to discuss steps to move forward.
- f. **The Coastal Resiliency Design Studio** (CRDS) has given us copies of their final report. We have copies in the office that can be signed out for residents to borrow and read if interested.

8. Old Business:

- g. **Thriving Communities**, US Dept of Transportation managed by Main Street America – the TOSB has received a subgrant award for \$90,000 that will help us arrange for public outreach and meetings with communities that would be affected by the addition or a wider street, or construction of a high walkway that would allow for safe passage of pedestrians and mobility impaired visitors to Slaughter Beach and Milford. We expect work to be in mid to late Fall.
- h. **FEMA** (Federal Emergency Management), **BRIC** (Building Resilient Communities **DTA** (Direct Technical Assistance) – We are the first town in Delaware to be awarded this assistance and our first meeting went smoothly. We have submitted four previously completed projects for their review and the CRDS team has offered any assistance as well. Slaughter Beach has consistently responded first among all recipients so the relationship is off to an excellent start.
- i. **Roll off Dumpster** - Council will consider adding dumpsters at the beginning of the program next year to assist all owners in getting rid of garden cuttings. Bob Wood also mentioned he is looking for grant assistance to go toward this project.
- j. **Sewer/Wastewater Management** – If you have questions or need assistance from Sussex Engineering, they have a new email address solely for our use: SlaughterBeachSewer@sussexcountyde.gov A tentative map has been shared with Bob Wood and he will have it available for residents to see upon request.
- k. **Slaughter Beach Historical Society** still has "SB" stickers to give out, these were donated by a resident. And they are running the photo contest for the next calendar – if you haven't yet, you can submit up to three photos for consideration to sbhistory.org for the rules and application.

9. Upcoming Events:

- l. Next Dumpster, September 27 weekend.
- m. Town Council Meeting October 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- n. Bookmobile, fire department parking area, October 9 & 30, 2024, 12:45-2pm
- o. To be on the mailing list for the Town updates, message townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
- p. To be on the mailing list for the SB Sailing Club, message 09sbosc@gmail.com, Harry Ward

10. Open Forum Discussion:

- 1. A resident advised that the Town has Spotted Lantern Flies and suggested everyone read about them on the USDA.gov website. They are very destructive to deciduous trees and information is on the Slaughter Beach webpages.



2. In addition, the black pine trees have a fungus that can be stopped with tree trimming. Bob Wood will contact DNREC to find out if we are limited as to what we can do to treat this and follow up will be through the emails sent by Kathy McFadden almost weekly.
3. A question was raised about cutting down trees on a private lot – the town advised that any cutting or planting should be done with the permission of DNREC. The contact at DNREC is in the town office, so contact the townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com and you will be directed based on what work you are looking to do on your lot. There are no financial charges for getting permission – this is strictly based on the DNREC line.
4. Further there are derelict vehicles on private property and there is an ordinance in town so this needs to be taken care of by the Town. Bob Wood advised we will check with the County on what is allowed and what is not allowed on private property.
5. A question was raised about the schedule the state police follow as there has been an increase in gatherings at the parking lot, in addition to an increase in motorcycle racing through town in better weather.

11. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Joanne Plescica to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jamie Draper at 7:58pm.

The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.