

**The Town of Bowers**3308 Main St.
Frederica, DE 19946
(302) 572-9000
bowersbeach.delaware.gov

**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., November 10, 2016 by Mayor, Ada Puzzo.

Council members present: Patty Mabis, Helena Hannah, and Bob McDevitt

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Helena Hannah, seconded by Bob McDevitt, to accept the previous month’s minutes with one correction. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

A motion was made by Patty Mabis, seconded by Bob McDevitt, to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion Carried.

**Official Swearing in of Secretary:**

Shirley Pennington was officially sworn in as Secretary after submitting her letter of interest.

**Drainage Project Update:**

A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Helena Hannah to move the drainage project up on the agenda. Motion Carried.

Vice-Mayor, Patty Mabis, began the update by introducing Jean Holloway and Gayle Hoffman, Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP).  They have been assigned by the Department of Agriculture to assist us in our project.  Gayle provided information about her background and experience with similar situations.

Patty continued by providing a summary of a Drainage Project meeting that was conducted on October 19th with Jean, Gayle, Dan Speakman (our design contractor, McCrone Engineering) and Angela Tilghman (Community Program Specialist, US Department of Agriculture).  Patty stated the purpose of the meeting was for the new team to meet, identify the current project status and what steps were required to move forward. She reminded everyone that the Town had decided and had it approved by USDA (provider of the project funding) to move forward only on Outfall 1, Hubbard Avenue.  The October meeting attendees toured our beach to see the dune breach and consequently were all in agreement that moving forward on Outfall 1 would be the only feasible step, at this time.

Patty stated that the contractor had provided a cost estimate of a little over $4,000 for removal of Outfall 1 from the original design plans (which included N. Flack/N. Bayshore and the Parking Lot) and that a new permit application was in the process of being submitted to DNREC (reflecting the change) for approval with a projected acceptance date of November 11th.

Patty emphasized that USDA had stated a condition of project construction phase did not permit work between April 1st - - August 15th, due to Fish and Wildlife impact.  A question was raised as to the validity of this timeline not being realistic, due to the construction location.  Patty responded by reiterating that it was a condition imposed by the funding provider (USDA).  The individual felt that the condition should be challenged. Jean also reiterated that the condition was imposed by the funding provider and that Angela was adamant about it being adhered to.

Patty concluded the status by indicating the project was moving forward and she expected completion of the Hubbard area no later than April 1, 2017.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Parks & Recreation: No Report

Planning: No Report

Streets: No Report

Board of Adjustments: No Report

Zoning & Code Revisions:

Issued one shed permit and one permit request was submitted.

Code Enforcement: No Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

Property Appraisal – Katherine Reitmeier Property

It was discussed that originally this was going to be an area to pump the water. We will continue to watch this area and if we can purchase it at a good price we will as long as it will serve a useful purpose for the Town of Bowers.

Beach Replenishment

A question was asked concerning the Bond Bill and Beach Replenishment.

Dune Breach

Bob said he will call about equipment to fix the breach by moving sand to build up that area. We have to be careful about being on private property. Even though it is private property it affects the entire town. It was suggested that we talk to the property owners to see if they would be in agreement to move the sand to build up the area. The Town could get letters of approval from the property owners that would be affected. There are community transportation funds that are available in the bond bill to do this work on the beach. Bob will get estimates. Ron Hunsicker said he would talk to Colin Bonini about the funding.

Phragmites

Bob reported that the phragmites had been sprayed and is now dead and ready to be cut down. Ten property owners were contacted and out of those five have responded. He will get a contractor to come out and cut the phragmites at a cost of $100.00 for each property that would be paid by the property owner. After a discussion it was decided to extend the offer to additional property owners who would like the phragmites cut down on their property as well.

Audit of Town Financial Statements

Helena said she would get with Shirley Pennington and discuss the Fire Company auditing the documents for the Town.

Crime Watch

Several residents attended the last meeting. There was nothing new to report. There is not enough interest to set up an organized group within the Town of Bowers. Anyone can attend the meetings which are held the last Thursday of the month at Levy Court.

Church Street – Tree

The Lawyer was contacted and we do not have the authority to do it ourselves. This is a work in progress and an update will be given at the next meeting.

Parking Lot

The Climate Control Grant was discussed. They want to remove the asphalt and plant grass. During this process the ditches would also be taken care of.

“Big Thursday”

Judy Martin reported that they had a great race, lots of vendors, and a parade. The whole town was involved it was a great day. She also informed us that the museum was now closed for the season.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was a discussion about having a holiday get together for the Town. It was decided to have refreshments at the next scheduled meeting. A motion was made by Shirley and seconded by Patty to spend up to $100.00 on the event.

There was a suggestion to have a house decorating contest. For now we will start small with the open house and work our way up to other things.

There was a suggestion to do an Adopt a Family for Christmas. The town has to be careful about how they spend their money. When the firehouse has done this in the past they go thru the school district and then donations are made for the families by the members not the department. It seems as though the program is being taken advantage of by families who aren’t really in need. We decided it was best to hold off on this.

A suggestion was made to list the politician’s information on our website. This will be discussed with Janis who manages the site and see if we can put a link to that information on our page.

Saturday there will be a breakfast at the Bower Fire Hall for Veterans and this is being sponsored by the Saxton United Methodist Church

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Pennington**

Secretary