

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
Frederica, DE 19946
(302) 572-9000
bowersbeach.delaware.gov

**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm on February 11, 2021byMayor Ada Puzzo via Zoom. Council members present:Shirley Pennington,Bob McDevitt, Wayne Irons, and Marty Manning.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:**

The minutes for January 2021 were tabled until the next meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer's report was given by Marty Manning.

Mayor Ada reminded everyone that a reimbursement for the CARES Act has been approved and you will see that income to offset the expense of $7,300.00.

A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded byShirley Pennington to accept the January2021 Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Parks & Recreation: Tink was prepared to go to town hall and couldn't get logged in so there is no report from him.

Planning: No Report..

Mayor Ada let everyone know that committee meetings can now be held at Town Hall as we are set up to do so.

Streets: Bob McDevitt presented the grass cutting proposals. They are as follows:

Short Cuts would be $492.90 per cut.

Sullivan's would be $367.00 per cut.

J and A Service would be $350.00 per cut.

There was a discussion on the vendors and we let the residents know that

There was a motion made by Ada Puzzo, seconded by Shirley Pennington to go with J and A Service. Motion carried.

Board of Adjustments: No Report.

Zoning Code Revisions:Currently reviewing a variance for 172 Hubbard that will be presented next month and will also go to the BOA.

Code Enforcement: No Report.

Parking Lot: No Report.

Watermen's Park:Marge Ventura reported that we are still waiting for estimates for the items that will be put in. Maria Keesling had a question concerning the security cameras. Mayor Ada said that this would be moving forward on a smaller scale as funding is available. We are also getting another estimate that doesn't include so much labor costs.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Drainage on North Bayshore: Marty Manning reported that Century Engineering viewed the area in question and he also sent them pictures as well. Mayor Ada feels that we will be able to get the $30,000.00 needed to fund the project. We did find the old information from 2015 that will be useful as a comparison. We are also going to reach out to DelDOT concerning the pipe that is located there.

Bruce Turner says that his deed shows the property as 8 feet from the road and assumes that everyone's is 8 feet from the road as well so that the town should own the piece in question. He said that the county map shows the ditch flowing different. The engineer will have to be the one to look at those things in question. Jerry Johnston from Kent County Sewer came and said that they were required to have a permit and was not sure how the sewer ended up in the middle of the driveway. There are multiple pictures of the water running across the street at the south end of N. Bayshore.

Mayor Ada said that these are the types of things that should be addressed with the committee and then brought to council.

Car Charging Stations: No update but Judy Martin wanted to know if there were any other questions or concerns. There were no questions from the public.

Town Dock and South End of Hubbard: The Russos had a presentation from Sarah Clark and Lilly Evans which was given to council in printed form. There was pictures of what this area might look like. Hoping that it would have a Co-op where people could bring the stuff that they make. They would like to have a Coffee Shop as well and a conference area. There would be benches, lighting, etc. They would also plan to improve the area as well by raising the elevation, adding a concrete collar to the drainage access, repair the dock space, and all this would be done at no cost to the town.

Carrie Friend asked where they planned to raise the road? If it was raised up to the alley how would you keep the water from collecting at the alley? Sarah said that they would have to slope everything into the drainage. There is an access point by Hubbard and Murderkill.

Bruce Turner asked if the pipe under Hubbard takes water out of the streets because of the pitch of the pipe. Mayor Ada explained that it has to be low tide as it will not drain at high tide. The flap stops the water from coming from the Murderkill. The flap works it's to do with the height of the bank.

Marty Manning asked if they raised the bulk head then how will they stop the flooding in other areas? His concern is where the water will go. Sarah said that you can't push tidal water. Their contact with DelDOT is Jim Pappas. Mark Puzzo said that the water will find the next low spot to go.

Judy Martin asked who owns the property? At this time we can't legally answer that question.

Bruce Turner said he thought that the Russos wanted control of that property.

Mayor Ada said that there will be further discussions with council concerning the Town Charter, section 23. Initially we thought that DelDOT was the authority concerning this piece of property but that is not the case. So if this section belongs to the town then there is a process that needs to be followed and it would have to go through a hearing process. This would also have to be initiated by someone on council.

Mark Puzzo said it seems to me that you can do virtually everything in your rendering with owning the street and raising it. Sarah said, yes, that’s an option we have considered.

Bruce Turner said that he has spoke with Pete Russo and thinks he has a great idea for the area in question. Mayor Ada made it clear that she doesn't think it is a bad idea however she doesn't think that the Town should give up ownership of the property.

Mark Semanick asked what would happen to the town dock? Sarah explained that they would clean up the area by replacing the stairs and other cosmetic things. Mark was concerned that it may not stay a fishing area.

Ken Reese said that he doesn't want to lose access to be able to fish there.

Phil Pennington asked that if this were to happen would there be a dry hydrant and would the benches be permanent or removable? Sarah explained that the benches would be removable and that they like the idea of a dry hydrant to protect homes and businesses.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Upcoming Museum Events: The museum is closed for the season. They are looking to have events hopefully starting in May hopefully with the Buccaneer Bash if restrictions allow it.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

Urban and Community Forestry Grant: Judy Martin said that this grant is due the beginning of March. This would to be to put trees in the old park where the pirates are during the Buccaneer Bash. The grant is to improve the tree canopy in urban areas and the Town of Bowers qualifies. The total of the grant would be $5,000.00 and we would have to match that in volunteer hours which would be a total of 138 hours.

Bob McDevitt said to remember that any meetings count as hours.

Carol Baker asked how we plant them and then maintain and water them. Phil Pennington said that is something that the fire company could help with.

Bruce Turner asked what kind of trees as he felt that they should not only provide shade but also be decorative. Judy Martin explained that we had to pick from a list of trees and those picked were: Black Gum, Red Cedar, and Hackberry all of which are decorative.

There was a motion made by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Wayne Irons for Mayor Ada to sign the grant as long as the cost did not exceed $3,500.00. Motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Ada Puzzoto adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on March11, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm and will be held via Zoom.

Town, Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month unless changed by the Mayor.

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Pennington**

Secretary