

**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 7:05 pm on January 14, 2020 by Mayor Ada Puzzo via Zoom. Council members present: Shirley Pennington ( Zoom), Bob McDevitt, Wayne Irons, and Marty Manning.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:**

The minutes were available in printed form. Council had the opportunity to review.

There was a motion by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons to approve the November meeting minutes. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons to approve the December Special meeting minutes after they were revised per our legal counsel. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Marty Manning, seconded by Bob McDevitt to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer's report was given by Marty Manning.

Marty and Mayor Ada explained some of the expenditures that were made and will be reimbursed by the CARES act.

A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Shirley Pennington to accept the December 2020 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Parking Lot: No Report

Watermen's Park: Marge Ventura wanted to give a shout out to Carrie and Perry Friend for the tree lighting. Mayor Ada said that it was great that they just did it without having to be asked. A week or so ago there was an email sent to the committee concerning the electrical hookup at the park. Mayor Ada said that was okay as we are allowed to pay for materials ahead of time. An estimate was given and we will be getting additional ones for the security cameras. The grant will not be sufficient but we are looking for other funding. Plans are being drawn up so that we know what materials are needed for the crow's nest that will hold the electrical mount as well as the mount for the security cameras as well.

There are plans for a pedestrian bridge they will be incorporating the old one but will need an extension.

Judy Martin discussed the old park and the damage that was done to a lot of the trees. DNREC removed most of the ones that were damaged. Anthony (DNREC) sent information regarding a grant that would replace the trees. This would be a matching grant but we could use volunteer hours as the match. There will be shade trees. We can also use the hours that we have spent to write the grant, meet about the grant, and then actually plant the trees.

Last month we also discussed security cameras and possibly doing them town wide. A consultant was brought in to do proposals. Since we don't have the funding currently this will be a work in progress.

Parks & Recreation: Tink is out of town but does not have a report for tonight.

Streets: No Report

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Board of Adjustments: No Report.

Planning/Zoning Code Revisions: Partition of lot  # 8-01-11517-02-7800-000 on Cooper Ave presented by Bob McDevitt. They received a variance from the BOA. This is now a formality to record this for the County.

A question was asked if there was a waiting period which Bob McDevitt explained that there is a 30 day waiting period for the Town for anyone who would like to challenge the decision.

Glenn Mandalas representing Terry Hawk said thanks to the council for their assistance with this matte. He also said although there is a 30 day waiting period for the town there is a 60 waiting period under Title 10 Code Provision. That 60 days would start as of today's date. During this waiting period the property can still be sold.

Council then took a five minute recess to sign the documents that need to be recorded with the County.

Marty Manning made a motion, seconded by Wayne Irons to amend the agenda to include another item under planning/zoning code revisions. Motion carried.

The Gorski property on Davidson Street was divided in 2020 but there was a problem with the drawings. Council will sign the new plot plans tonight that would show the property correctly. All parties agreed with the corrections.

Town Dock and South end of Hubbard - Mayor Ada Puzzo said that tonight there is representation so there will just be some information given. If this is a state maintained road then the town would not have jurisdiction it would fall to the state.

Two years ago Pete Russo asked for a meeting stating that he wished to improve the property and take over the responsibility of the dock at the end of Hubbard Avenue.

Mayor Ada Puzzo told Pete that she could not make that decision by herself as there are a total of five people on council. She also said that they would need to do more research. There was a meeting after the town election in August 2020 which included Mayor Puzzo, Bob McDevitt, Pete Russo, and Lilly.

They were looking to do a DelDOT abandonment and this process would involve DelDOT and it would also be subject to public comment. Mayor Ada is not sure if the Town has to have a public opinion. She left it up to the Russos to initiate the process.

Mayor Ada, Bob McDevitt, Roberta Russo, and Sarah Russo met to discuss further. DelDOT did some investigating and told us that this area is not the responsibility of the state.

The Russos then contacted a lawyer to find out what the process is and found that the next step would be Superior Court and as a result our lawyer will now be involved to represent the town. This information was relayed tonight in the event that this calls for a Town Opinion or Public Comment which Mayor Ada would like to hear from the residents. Wayne Irons said we should let the lawyers do their thing and inform us of the process. Marty Manning he would think that it would fall to the town if not the state but no one is sure, Bruce Turner asked if the Russos would be able to present their plans at a meeting. They have been advised that they should make a presentation but were not prepared to do so tonight.

Jay and Carol Baker asked about the drainage that is under that area. Yes there is drainage there and that is why the town would always need access to it. Bruce Turner also stated that abandonment means that something is not being taken care of and the valve that is there produces flooding.

We can discuss in another meeting to clarify any concerns. If you have concerns please email Mayor Ada.

Code Enforcement: No Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

Drainage on North Bayshore: Marty Manning reported that they had a meeting with the committee. The committee consists of Marty Manning Doug Shuck, Jim Martin, and Bruce Turner. They came up with some plans and it looks like the road will have to be raised. They have also discussed to have the ditches cleared and maintained. They also discussed putting a pipe that could be used as a dry hydrant for the fire company. Another solution would be to have the water run into a property. Also they discussed using a town maintained sump pump. There was a discussion on the different plans. This is just what they came up with and may not be the best solution.

They did talk to DelDOT about the pipe on Flack and was told that the pipe was owned by the town (Ron Jarrell) they are supposed to get back in touch with Marty and if that was their property then they would have to repair it.

Mayor Ada wanted to update everyone that she did find some source funding for task one and task two for Century Engineering's proposal. She is awaiting confirmation on the funding and Century Engineering is already an approved firm in the state. This would be the third engineering firm that would look at this issue. Ada said that the engineering firm will be able to answer a lot of the questions that have been asked tonight. So once they are able to do what they proposed then we will know what we can and can't do.

Jeff Detrick of 74 and 127 N. Bayshore said that we need an assessment first and we have been having this conversation for 15 plus years. He is concerned about the new houses going up that could make the situation worse.

Mayor Ada said now that they have a committee up and running we can try to find a funding source. The planning committee will have to look at things as ordinances and enforcement.

Carol and Jay Baker of 224 N. Bayshore said that they moved here in 2017 and have seen things get progressively worse over time. Mayor Ada said that she has been here since 2010 and has noticed the problem is getting worse. Bruce Turner said that he has lived here for two years but has seen that it is getting worse. He stated that Rehoboth put in large drains on their streets that let the water go down and out to the bay wondering if this may be an option. Mayor Ada said that there is language in our charter to maintain drainage but we will come up with a plan that will benefit everyone.

Jay Baker that it appears that there is a remains of a drainage system and wants to know if there is an ordinance that could be enforced. We could hope for an integrated system where there would be a consequence if you disrupted the system.

Mayor Ada said that Century Engineering was picked and we can request funding for the first two tasks on N. Bayshore. If anyone is interested she will email the proposal to anyone that would like to see it.

Marty Manning then went over the tasks on the proposal again so everyone was clear on the tasks. If anyone has any legal documents that they are willing to share with council that would be helpful as well.

There was a motion made by Marty Manning, seconded by Bob McDevitt for Mayor Ada to be able to approve funding sources. Motion carried.

Car Charging Stations: Judy Martin provided documents for review. DNREC is offering a grant for this that runs through June. This would be put at the beach end of the new parking lot. The town would be responsible for the installation and the electricity that would be used. The would be no cost to the town for the hardware involved. The cost of electricity would be approximately $1200.00 that would be recouped over a period of time. There is also a fee to the company that provides the stations. One of the companies charges $0 for the first year and $480.00 per year after that. This operates similar to the EZ Pass system, there would be an app on your phone. The town would have to decide what they would want to charge people who would need to charge their car.

A question was asked about who would handle the cost of repairs and or vandalism. We would have to cross that bridge when we come to it. Mayor Ada said that she would be willing to help prepare a cost analysis.

Bruce Turner said that he can't see this being something that would get used as people charge their cars overnight at home and have a 280 mile radius before needing to recharge.

Jay Baker said that he charges any time a station is available to keep his vehicle at an 80% charge. It doesn't hurt to charge often.

A question was asked about how long of a life this charging station would have. Mayor Ada said to please email any other questions so they can be researched and answers brought to a future meeting. Judy Martin will be bringing additional information on this as well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Upcoming Museum Events: The museum is closed for the season. They are looking to have events hopefully starting in May. They are beginning to get emails and questions from vendors about upcoming events. They are trying to decide maybe doing things on a smaller scale. Judy said the Pirates and musical groups understand that this is a trying time and are willing to work with us. Judy said they will just keep waiting as long as they can to decide to have or not to have events.

A question was asked about the 5K - Melissa asked how difficult it was to do. Judy Martin said it was the most profitable and easiest to do even with the Covid restrictions.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Bob McDevitt to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on February 11, 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