

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
Frederica, DE 19946
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bowersbeach.delaware.gov

**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm on March 11, 2021 by Mayor Ada Puzzo via Zoom. Council members present: Shirley Pennington, Wayne Irons, and Marty Manning. Bob McDevitt was absent.

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 January2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Marty Manning, seconded by Ada Puzzo to table the February2021 meeting minutes for further review. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer's report was given by Marty Manning.

A motion was made by Ada Puzzo, seconded byShirley Pennington to accept the February2021 Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

We are still waiting on the reimbursement from the CARES Act.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation:** Tink said thanks for all the thoughts and prayers during his recent down time when he had his hip replacement. He said that the basketball hoop needs to be replaced. He said he priced one at $129.00. He will also need to purchase rakes, shovels, and mulch. The Horseshoe pits need to be upgraded as well. He was told to put in a requisition for the items that he will need. There is a possibility of having a bocce ball tournament. He would also like to bring back the students from Positive Outcomes.

**Planning:**No Report.

Mayor Ada mentioned that Bob McDevitt is not at the meeting tonight as he was taken to the hospital and was admitted. He is doing well and should be able to come home soon.

**Streets:**No Report.

**Board of Adjustments:** No Report. Ada and Wayne will get together and go over the rules so we can get this moving forward.

**Zoning Code Revisions:** No Report.

**Code Enforcement:** No Report.

**Parking Lot:** Anthony Gonzon, DNREC was in attendance and gave an update on the parking lot for Phase 2. He showed a drawing which shows where wildflowers will be placed, the repaving and the swale to help remove the water so it doesn't accumulate. Anthony discussed where the ditch currently is located and where it is going to be located upon completion. The residents will actually gain some property that they will be able to use. The 60 % design drawings have been submitted and they have received comments. There will be a meeting in about a week and a half then 100 % drawings will be submitted at that point. The project should be out to bid by summer and started in late summer early fall. Completion should be by the end of the year.

Carrie (DNREC) will help with tee boundary survey and then it should be out to bid within a month

Completion of Phase I on South Flack Avenue has been pending the water. South Flack is due to be replaced or resurfaced. Century Engineering will look at that area and propose remedies. Mayor Ada said that she really appreciates them taking the time to look at this area.

Mayor Ada reminded us that all property owners adjacent to the parking lot were on board and now they will have to change the descriptions on their deeds as it now says that they own to the center of the ditch.

Mark Puzzo asked about the area along South Flack with ditches. Anthony explained that it was inadvertently left off but those ditches will remain as is. The pipe that is crossing the new entrance will be replaced and all pipes from the park area will be replaced as well.

Tink asked a question as to where the water will go and Anthony responded that with the changes it will be able to drain better.

**Watermen's Park:** No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage on North Bayshore:**Marty Manning said that they had another meeting. Century is reviewing all documents and input from the town. They will come up with alternatives to alleviate the issue. We have secured the funding for the study and we are now awaiting the engineers report. The Fire company may be able to help remove the standing water and the town is talking with them about it.

The USDA money from 2013 was given to DNREC to help with the drainage but some was kept for North Bayshore.

**Town Dock and South End of Hubbard:** No updates on this.

**Urban and Community Forest Grant:** The Town needs to pass a resolution for this grant that states that the Town is interested in the tree canopy within the town. Currently we have 13 % tree coverage and would like to increase it. We need to show the Forestry Department that we are willing to do that. Marty Manning made a motion to execute the resolution to increase the tree canopy, seconded by Wayne Irons. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Waste/Recycle Contract:** Mark Puzzo took on the task of looking into getting better pricing for our trash removal. If we continue with Waste Industries it would be a 5 year contract that would cost a total of $288,000.00. The cost was figured on 210 houses to pick up during the summer and 105 houses to pick up during the winter. Their cost would be increased over the 5 year period ($19.00/$19.30/$19.60/$19.90/$20.20) If we make a change to Blue Hen we would save a total of $12,978.00 per year. This company is currently used by the Town of Frederica and they are happy with their service. Mark recommends that we switch to Blue Hen and save the town money. This would be a 3 year contract with 1 year extensions.

There was a discussion about permanent residents versus seasonal residents. A question was also asked if the rate with Blue Hen would increase each year. The rate would be $17.00/$17.50/$18.00 but Mark would ask that it be $17.50 for the first 3 years and then renew at $18.00 each year after that.

Residents would be able to set up an account for bulk items at an additional charge to the resident.

Shirley Pennington made a motion to go with Blue Hen, seconded by Marty Manning. Motion carried.

Blue Hen said they can transition by May 1st and Mark will try to get Waste Industries to go to a month to month basis until we can get everything switched out. Waste Industries will pick up the old trash cans and Blue Hen will deliver new ones. Mark Puzzo will coordinate this as well.

**Budget Review and Planning:**Mayor Ada Puzzo said that she will sit down with Treasurer Marty Manning to review income and expenses back to 2015 and they will do each year moving forward to current. Looking at 2015 we didn't have enough revenue to cover the expenses. Ada said that we need to look at ways to increase our revenue.

Mark Puzzo commented that in other towns the trash costs are passed on to the residents instead of the town paying the cost.

**Bus Shelter:** We need to remember that this is a bus shelter for the kids and not a storage facility. Don't put items in there that don't belong. If you are looking for the Blessings Box it is located on the opposite side of the Church.

**Upcoming Museum Events:**Judy Martin reported that they plan to be open soon on Saturdays and Sundays. The Spring Creek Lions Club donated a nice bench for the front porch.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

**Cell Phone Coverage**: Marylisa Manning started researching this issue about a year and a half ago. Ryan Locke had spoke to Verizon who said that the spotty coverage had to do with the placement of the cell tower. Marylisa has spoken to several individuals concerning the issue. She was told that they would be tweaking the tower and that should help to improve coverage. If you have noticed an improvement with your cell phone or if you are still experiencing issues please let us know. You can email Marylisamanning@gmail.com or Treasurer@bowers.de.gov. Xfinity has also expanded the Wifi in town. Mayor Ada said that she greatly appreciates all the effort and time that Marylisa has put into this project.

**Special Olympics:** Mayor Ada said that she had been contacted by Special Olympics Bocce Ball Team and they would like to use our Town Bocce Ball Courts April 12th to June 7th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm on Monday evenings to practice. Tink said that we need to clean up that area prior to them coming.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Ironsto adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on April8, 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.

Remember to contact Secretary Shirley Pennington or Mayor Ada Puzzo 10 days prior to the meeting if you have resident topics or concerns that you would like to see on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Pennington**

Secretary