

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
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**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on October 14, 2021 by Mayor Ada Puzzo. Council members present: Shirley Pennington, Bob McDevitt, Wayne Irons, and Marty Manning(Zoom).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Wayne Irons to accept the July 2021 minutes with corrections made by Mayor Ada. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bob Mc Devitt, seconded by Wayne Irons to accept the August 2021 minutes with corrections made by Mayor Ada. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Marty went over the reports for September. He also did a cumulative report for July through September as well. Mayor Ada said that the $ 3,500.00 engineering fee will be reimbursed .Mayor Ada also explained that with the Tax Chicks collecting taxes for the Town there is sometimes a delay in the checks being deposited. There was a questions as to where the funding would come from when we have DSP on patrol for the town. There was also a question concerning why an item was listed a liability when it shouldn't be. This has been explained before and it was how the previous treasurer had entered it. A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Wayne Irons to accept the August 2021 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation:** Tink reported that the at the beginning of the month they moved the limbs and debris pile that had accumulated in the park. He would like to thank Chris for all his help and also for transporting the debris to the dump and paying the fee. Tink wanted to thank Alex for helping to fix the basketball hoop at the court as he saved the town a lot of money. Sullivan's provided the mulch and were able to spread it as well. Tink reported that some of the equipment needs to be cleaned Mayor Ada said that she will send out an email to see if we can get some volunteers to help.

The trees for the park have been delivered. Tink brought the first two to the park himself. Tomorrow the Forestry department will be here to map out where they feel the trees should be planted. Volunteers will be needed starting at 8 am. Judy Martin will be keeping track of the hours for the grant. The most help will be needed on Saturday which will start at 9am. Help will be needed starting at 8am on Friday and 9am on Sunday.

Tink has some receipts to be turned in so that he can be reimbursed for trees and other park related expenses. He says that there is a lot of trash being placed on the basketball courts and would like to get some signs to remind people to clean up. Bob McDevitt said that he has some "Stash your Trash" signs that can be used. Tink thanked Bob for getting a new lid for the trash can.

Also he saw that the Covid beach sign was destroyed.

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:** Bob McDevitt explained a partition request and said basically this is just a formality to o the paperwork and have it recorded. Notices were sent to the neighbors of the property owner and put in the paper as well.

**Streets:** DNREC/Mayor Ada/Tink are talking about working together to fix South flack. We may be able to use some of the ARPA funds and if not we can use the $ 49,000.00 that we have set aside for streets. They will also talk with DelDOT as well. There was a suggestion to try to tap into the infrastructure bill to get some funding for the project.

**Board of Adjustments:** Bob McDevitt said there was a request for a variance as the property owner wants to remodel and he will set up a date and time for the BOA to meet and discuss.

**Code Enforcement:** No Report.

**Parking Lot** Anthony Gonzon reported that there were issues with the grass not growing and they are addressing the problem. The erosion control log has been installed and they have sent suggestions to correct the problem.

There was a question as to where the drainage from Clifton Cubbage on the north end goes and it goes to Hubbard.

Anthony said he wanted to thank Mayor Ada and Tink for meeting with him and offering their suggestions as well.

Phase II is moving the ditches to Fish and Wildlife property creating a nice open space. Design drawings are to be done and they will be used to go out to bid. This is not yet final. The next step is to have surveyors do boundary surveys. Anthony showed the current drawing to everyone. The corners of the property will be marked for each property owner. There will be space between the new ditch and the property. The swales that were installed will drain the rain water more effectively. The property owners will have a chance to review the drawings. The archeological dig that was required has been done and they are awaiting the report. This project should be ready for bid by the end of the year with a completion date of May 1st.

Bob McDevitt asked what will they use to fill the old ditch. Anthony said that they will use the material from creating the new ditch along with 6 inches of topsoil.

Bruce Turner asked how deep is the layer that will be dug. Anthony said that some of the area was 3 foot but he is not sure how deep it goes. It will be planted with wetland vegetation and plants so that the water will be more easily absorbed.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage on North Bayshore:** Mayor Ada still has questions on the money figures that were presented for the solutions proposed. Mayor Ada and Marty Manning met with Andrew from Century Engineering but she hasn't received new numbers as of yet. Mayor Ada said that we will find the funding for the solution but we need a realistic number for maintenance in the future.

Marty Manning said that there may be other options without the use of a pump but we need to wait on the figures.

Mayor Ada said that they asked Andrew (Century Engineering) about a gravity solution without the pump. The amount of $ 7,400.00 would be needed to review this option because it was out of the scope of work, therefore a change order would be needed. The town would be responsible for the cost of the change order.

**Channel Dredging and Rock Jetty:** There is money in the Bond Bill for both the drainage and the jetty. Mayor Ada had been working with Mike Powell on this but he has retired. Jesse Hadin is acting in that position and Mayor Ada will stay in touch with him. The RFP is going thru the approval process.

**Dover/KC MPO Study:** The town is having a study done. We need pay 10 % of the cost of the study which would be $ 8,600.00. Mayor Ada asked if them if they would consider 5% which would be $ 4,300.00 and we could use the ARPA money to cover the cost. They will look at methods and strategies to slow people down without having DSP patrol. There was a comment made that New Castle County has spent a lot of money on the bike trails.

A question was asked if this would cover all of Bowers Beach Road and the answer is yes it will. The group that will be doing the study is well respected and the information they provide will help us get funding.

There was a unanimous vote by council to give Mayor Ada the authority to sign off on the paperwork that needs to be done for the study.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and Possible Action:** This would be to change or modify the FY22 budget. The ARPA money we are receiving has very strict rules on how to spend the $ 180,000.00. If it is not spent correctly it must be paid back. We would need to pay .04% of the money received to join a group that would provide legal counsel to us as we need it. The cost for this service would be $ 695.00. Council agreed that we should pay the fee so we can participate in this.

**Termite Treatment:** The buildings that the museum gave to the town were checked for termites. Mayor Ada was told that there was some previous damage from termites but he could not see any current activity in the areas that he was able to see. The cost to do a one-time preventative treatment would be $ 600.00 and then $ 100.00 every year after that.

**Leaking window:** Bob McDevitt said that he will be getting estimates to have a back window fixed that has been leaking.

**Upcoming Museum Events:** Judy Martin reported that October 10th was Heritage Day and thanks to all those who participated in the 5K and to those that were sponsors. There are no new activities at this time.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

No resident topics or concerns were presented for this meeting.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Bob McDevitt to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on November 18, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm and will be and in person meeting as well as Zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Pennington,**

Secretary