

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
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**TOWN COUNCIL WORKGROUP MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm on November 15, 2021byMayor Ada Puzzo (Zoom). Council members present:Shirley Pennington (Zoom), Wayne Irons, Marty Manning, and Bob McDevitt.

Pledge was recited in unison.

Others attending on Zoom: Judy Martin, Steve Rohrs, Marylisa Manning, and Scott Etough.

Mayor Ada explained what the working group session was and that there would be no public comment unless asked for by council.

**DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL**

**Life Ring:**During the recent storm we lost a life ring. The ring itself was found but the enclosure, rope, and post were not recovered. Wayne will check the areas that other life rings are located to make sure we didn't lose anymore. Then we will work on getting the items needed to restore any that were lost. Bob said that he has caught people playing with them, we should find a way to educate the town on the purpose of the life rings.

**Insufficient Funds Letter**:Marty said that he has prepared a letter to send to residents in the event they pay their taxes and the check is returned for insufficient funds.

**Call from a Paralegal:** Marty said he received a call from a paralegal concerning addresses for two parcels located on N. Flack. These parcels will not have an address until they are developed. For now the only identifier is the parcel number. Bob said that this is the property that we just did a partition for. Marty said he will call her back and give her the information.

**American Shore and Beach Preservation**:Marty said that he received a notice that we owe $500.00 for dues and is not sure if we should continue to pay this fee. Bob says that we have paid this fee for about ten years now and we due receive a magazine. He says that Tony Pratt is now involved with the organization. Mayor Ada said she would like to hold off and research this a bit more and see if it is worth our time to stay involved and pay the dues.

**Missing folder:** Bob said that he has misplaced one of his folders that was letter size with two pockets if anyone comes across it please let him know. It had his copy of the retail residential setbacks in it. He also said that we need to fix this on-line as that page is missing. Mayor Ada believes she has a copy of it to email to Shirley so this can be fixed.

**New Recorder:** Shirley said that she ordered the new recorder that she had been talking about since the old one no longer works. She purchased it from Amazon. We just need to fill out one of the requisition forms for record purposes.

**Bayview Inn:** There are new owners of the Bayview Inn and ABC requires a letter from the town stating that they are allowed to sell alcohol. Mayor Ada prepared a letter for Wayne to sign on her behalf because she is quarantined at this time. Shirley will print the letter for Wayne to sign and then it will be scanned and emailed to the new owner. Mayor Ada will forward Shirley the contact information.

**Building Use:**There are liabilities and costs that the town needs to consider when letting others use the museum, now that the Town of Bowers is the owner. Mayor Ada said Judy reached out to her recently about classes to be held in the museum. She told Judy that council needs to be included because she doesn’t make town decisions on her own. Mayor Ada said she would add a discussion item for the town meeting this month, since we still had time to put it on the agenda. Council asked Judy Martin who was in attendance to speak on the matter.

Judy said she had things scheduled, such as a class for basket weaving, but lost the date because it had been brought to her attention that she now needed approval from council to hold such things at the museum. She was also thinking of having a yoga class and she has made contact with a certified teacher who has her own liability insurance. Judy is upset that the mission of the museum is being compromised and she was not aware that she was going to need council's approval each time she wants to hold a class or activity.

Wayne said, don’t we have insurance for things like this? Mayor Ada said the town has insurance, but we need to check to make sure what it does and doesn't cover.

Shirley said she is confused as to why things have changed; she thought that we just took ownership and that the museum would still function as they had in the past.

Mayor Ada also explained that if someone is holding a class to make money, that’s different than a museum activity or speaker that doesn't cost to attend.

Bob addressed the occupancy and wanted to know what the maximum capacity is.

Mayor Ada said we also have to address the extra expenses this would make for the town such as electric, AC or heat. Also who would be there during the event and who would be responsible to clean up and lock up after an event? These are all questions that we need to have the answers to before we move forward.

Judy then asked about the basket making class, but Mayor Ada said since there is an exchange of money we still need to make sure we are all on the same page. Mayor Ada asked Judy if the museum had charged for classes or activities in the past. Judy said no. Mayor Ada said then, this is a new scenario. We need a clear understanding of the lease we signed, and we need to talk to our legal counsel and insurance company before we proceed.

The Town has always supported the mission of the museum and has no plans to stop, but we do need to make sure we all understand who is responsible and liable for such activities.

**Bowers Fire Company:** The Bowers Fire Company wants to attend the monthly meeting to discuss a storm response plan that they will be working on and they will have general information to hand out. Residents may be able to sign up to receive automatic information in the event of a storm. This is in response to the storm that we had a few weeks ago.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Ironsto adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm. Motion Carried.

The next townworking group meeting will be held on December 20, 2021 starting at 6:00 pm at Town Hall. Town residents may join via zoom

Respectfully submitted,

**Shirley A. Pennington**

Secretary