

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
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bowersbeach.delaware.gov

**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm on August 11, 2022 by Mayor Ada Puzzo Council members present: Marty Manning (Zoom), Bob McDevitt, Shirley Pennington, and Wayne Irons.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Swearing in of Mayor and Council by Bob McDevitt.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Wayne Irons, seconded by Marty Manning to Approve the July meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Marty went over the reports for July 2022.

The 2023 Budget will have a separate line for Town Events Income as well as Town Events Expenses.

A question was asked about the expenses for the town events and if the cost would go down. There was a grant of $1,000.00 that won't show and yes they will go down. This year we purchased a sound system which will be a onetime purchase.

A motion was made by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Wayne Irons to accept the July 2022 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Moving up Dredging/Jetty as well as Drainage**

**University of Delaware Final Presentation:** the U of D students gave their final presentation. A copy will be available for residents if interested.

MARSH was presented by Chris McCarron who said that the plan was to restore the ditches to work and function as they should naturally.

BEACH & MURDERKILL was presented by Delaney Pilotte who said their plan was to help keep sediment away from the mouth of the river and would enhance the jetty.

TOWN CENTER REVITILIZATION was presented by Lexi Dart who said they would like to create an area for performances and enhance the area for other town events to include a bathroom area as well.

This group is interested in maintaining a relationship with the Town of Bowers and help us to get a grant in order to get some of these projects started. This group spent 100s of hours on this project with their research and design. They will prepare a booklet for us with all of this information that they collected in the next few weeks.

**Dredging/Jetty:** Jesse Hayden (DNREC) The jetty would be complimentary to the project discussed by U of D.

August 2nd they started dredging as an emergency project and making progress faster than expected and they are at least half way done. They plan to finish by the end of the month. They were also able to harvest more sand than expected. They are on target for the depth of 7 feet which will be a tremendous help. Everyone is working together and sharing the waterway.

If you search DNREC Murderkill dredging you should see pictures and information.

The jetty is a continuation of what was started in 2015. They are in the engineering phase where the old designs will be updated. Fall of 2023 to Spring of 2024 is when they will be worked on. The jetty on the southern side needs to be raised and at some point there will be a project for that as well.

2014 permits are being used for the dredging but we will need new permits for the jetty.

There are lots of rocks that are missing between the bags of the jetty and have been injuries because of this. Bob suggested a slurry to keep the rocks in place.

The cement bags will not be used in the construction of the new jetty. The northern jetty is also in need of repair and it is included in the engineering study.

Questions asked:

How do we get the Coast Guard to mark the channel once it is dredged?

The contract for South Bowers is almost complete, when will we start getting sand put on North Bowers?

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks & Recreation:** Tink said that there isn't too much going on other than larger branches need to be taken care of.

**Community Events:** Tink thanked the Mayor and Council for all their support. The event is continuing to grow with about 100 to 120 people attending the music events. They have more talent coming in the next few months.

Tink would like to get another shed for storage. He has priced them and they are about

$ 2,500.00. He is thinking that maybe we could place it in the park.

Next week's event will also have a food vendor and some of our town residents will play music prior to the start of the concert. Remember to purchase your T-shirts!!

Sean Devlin said a storage container may be a better option if it would work.

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:** The committee has made some revisions concerning demolition from fire and storm damage. If it is demolished and not cleaned up you will lose your chance to rebuild as is. The applications would be attached to the property and not the person. Council was in agreement to have Barrett give a legal opinion about the language.

**Streets:** No Report

**Public Water:** Joe Conlin said that we must move fast to get this up and running. We need surveys from the residents. We also need water samples to be tested to determine the quality of our water.

Mayor Ada said that we may be able to discuss this at the Working Group on Monday night.

**Board of Adjustments:**  No Report

**Code Enforcement:** No Report

**Parking Lot:** Anthony Gonzon said that last week we received all the boundary line surveys. The next step is to talk with town residents. They received the Army Corp of Engineers permit and the construction drawings are done. This should be started in late fall or early winter and should be done in May.

**Watermen's Park:** Marge Ventura said that the extension was approved and it will be done the end of the year The paperwork was accepted for the $ 2,000.00 reimbursement. Tink tried to assemble the new light but is waiting on the paperwork to complete it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Channel Dredging and Rock Jetty:** Mayor Ada received a phone call that next Friday there will be a public announcement about the dredging and it will be good news.

**Drainage:** Sean Devlin agreed to take the leadership role for the drainage committee. He said that Century Engineering is close to being done with the design.

Driveway widths were finalized with changes needing to be made to 197 and 189. Vacant lots will be left at 10 feet and can expand to 22 feet.

This may become a phased project depending on cost. Currently the cost is at $ 213,000 to $ 220,000. There will need to be a letter drafted to home owners. Mayor Ada is waiting for the drainage committee to submit a draft of what the committee feels the letter should say. Century Engineering will write the grant at a cost of $4,500. We are waiting on the final proposals to proceed with the bids. We may be able to use some of the ARPA funds to cover the $4500 cost for grant writing. If not we can take it out of the street fund.

Susan Edwards who owns lot 197 was concerned about expenses to the owner of the lot and was told that there should be no expense to the property owner. There were drainage ditches that were filled in at some point in time and this needs to be corrected. If the ditches are restored to their natural state this will improve drainage. Mayor Ada assured the residents that this project will stay within the town's ROW and it will not impact the homeowner.

Any questions for Sean can be sent to sdevlinstevens@gmail.com

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ada made a motion seconded by Wayne to secure the amount of $4500 to move forward with the grant writing. Motion Carried

**Upcoming Museum Events:**  Judy Martin reported that Heritage Day will be October 9th. There will be a 5K race, music, vendors, and food.

**Bay Beach Association:** Kent County voted to participate and will provide $ 30,000.00. This will be presented to Sussex County to get their support as well. The towns that are incorporated are Bowers, Lewes, Slaughter Beach. Kent and Sussex County will be the voice for the towns that are not incorporated. The three incorporated towns will commit to funding the startup cost for the Bay Beach Association; a commitment of $1,000 each. The expenditure will be included in the FY23 budget for council approval.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

None

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Wayne Irons said to remember that there are other streets that have drainage issues and it seems like we are dumping a lot of money into trying to fix N. Bayshore.

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**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Wayne Irons, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on September 8, 2022 starting at 7:00 pm and will be 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