

**The Town of Bowers**3357 Main St.
Frederica, DE 19946
(302) 572-9000
bowersbeach.delaware.gov

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 pm on February 9, 2023 by Vice-Mayor Wayne Irons Council members present: Shirley Pennington, Bob McDevitt, and Marty Manning.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**Hearing:**

FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BOWERS TO REVISE THE PROCEDURES FOR ALTERING NON-CONFORMING BUILDINGS, AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCES, UPDATE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, AND MAKE OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES

**Comments on the Hearing:**

**Howard Housekenecht:** Lives on 36 Mulberry Drive. He states that he is in agreement with 90% of the amendment. He questioned why a time limit of 5 years was placed in the ordinance. He asked what the reasoning was behind the time limit. He does feel that there should be a time frame given.

Bob McDevitt offered some insight as to why there was a time of 5 years written in the language.

**Chris Telles:** Lives at 118 Hubbard Avenue. He states that we had the store that was on Hubbard torn down and the owner has yet to clean it up. He at least thinks that the lot should have to be maintained.

Bob McDevitt said he would reach out to the owner again.

There was a motion by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Marty Manning to end the hearing.

**The Regular Town Meeting was then called to order by Vice-Mayor Wayne Irons.**

**Minutes:** The minutes were tabled until our next meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Marty went over the reports for January 2023. Then went over July 2022 thru February 2023.

A motion was made by Shirley Pennington, seconded by Bob McDevitt to accept the January 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Zoning Ordinance:** A motion was made by Bob McDevitt, seconded by Marty Manning to accept the amendment to the zoning ordinance. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parking Lot:** Anthony Gunzon said that there is only one remaining property owner left to sign off. Then it will go out to bid and should start after the Buccaneer Bash/

**Watermen's Park:** No Report

**Parks & Recreation:** No Report

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:** No Report

**Public Water:**  Joe Conlin said that they will be doing a survey to see if the residents are interested. DE Rural Water Association will be working with us and it will be funded by a federal grant so that there will be no cost to the town.

There are 379 property owners in town and an email will be going out consisting of 9 questions. Please take the time to fill it out and make an comments that you want to. The plan is to run the survey in April and complete it by May. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Joe Conlin or Mayor Ada Puzzo.

A resident said he has been talking to his neighbors and there are a lot of questions concerning this. He wants to make sure that we attempt to reach everyone. Joe said we are just in the early stages and will take that into consideration.

**Streets:** No Report

**Code Enforcement:** No Report

**Board of Adjustments:**  No Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage:** No Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Museum Events:**  No Report.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

**JP's on the Wharf- OABCC Concerned Citizen Hearing Notice**

**Jenna Appicella resides at 3372 Main Street -**  JPs is asking for a variance for their business and she is concerned that all residents won't be contacted. She is concerned about the impact extra people will have on the community. She is also concerned that they may be changing their hours and that there will be increased noise. Another concern is how to control the extra people that will come as they can seat an extra 100. There was also gaming language in the notice that concerns her as well as she is not sure what that means.

**Marty Hannig resides at 3395 Main Street -** He is also concerned about gaming language that was in the notice. He is concerned about the traffic in town and especially at Hubbard, he wonders if we have ever thought about getting a traffic light for Hubbard and Main. He stated that our town charter states that gaming is illegal. He also said that residents who live within one mile of JPs should have been notified and he is not sure that it happened that way.

**Response by JPs representative Lilly Hodgson -** She stated that they were required to notify residents that were within 1000 feet only. This was also published in the paper as required. The gaming language was required to be in there but the only events they will be having is corn hole and giant jenga. The business hours will remain the same and they will still be seasonal. The new area will be contained with fencing and that will help with enforcement for alcohol and extra people. This establishment has had their liquor license for 30 years and will not do anything to jeopardize it. So this will just be an extension of dining and seating and they may move the boat bar to the new area.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Bob McDevitt, adjourn at 7:50 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on March 9, 2023 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