

**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 7:03 pm on May 11, 2023 by Mayor Ada Puzzo. Council members present: Bob McDevitt, Marty Manning and Wayne Irons.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

A motion was made by Ada to amend the agenda in order to add the UD Local Government Management Fellow (LGMF) discussion with regards to the budget. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons to table the April minutes to give the council the time to review. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Marty went over the reports for April 2023. Then he went over July 2022 through April 2023.

A resident requested more information about the USDA grant and the building expenses. Marty and Ada gave clarification on the Engineering fees which are reimbursed by the USDA grant are now reported under grant reimbursement.

Marg asked about donations to the fire company and the museum. Ada clarified that this is an expense for the town.

A motion was made by Wayne Irons, seconded by Ada Puzzo to accept the April 2023 Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parking Lot:** Anthony waiting until after the Buccaneer Bash.

**Watermen's Park:** Bicycle repair station requested for the park. DMPO – you buy it first and then you get 100 percent reimbursement. We do qualify so it’s just a matter of getting things submitted. Ada asked Judy about the DNREC grant for a pirate ship in the playground – Judy put in the pre-application and is awaiting approval before moving forward with the official application.

**Parks & Recreation:** Tink talking about the two dead trees and how Peppers will not warranty them. Bob and Mary want to donate a tree for Michele’s memorial. Tink said there is one more space available for someone to donate another one if they want. Tink will be happy to plant the trees. He is planning to replace some of the posts at the park, each set will cost about $250. Tink is still planning a community clean-up, but I had to be postponed. Music on June 19th with Bad Juju. Chris Telles has been donating the stage for the last year in regards to town use. Ray Shore and his family are donating money to buy the stage for the town of Bowers. They are planning a celebration for the family. Reach out to Tink for more information.

**Planning/Zoning Code Revisions:** Ray – the committee is discussing ordinances for campers and RVs. Particularly with parking and use on private lots.

**Public Water:**  Joe Conlin adding more pressure to get the application in assuming people want to go with town water. DNREC will reimburse property owners for any efforts that help with conservation efforts and water routes. DECAP is the name of the program and you can apply for it through the website. It extends to rain and water gardens. The other thing is in regards to water filtration, there are 4 aquifers under the town. They were all sampled and two of them are not within EPA guidelines. Joe Conlin highly advises to check with DNREC before digging a well to ensure that no water is coming from unapproved or unsafe wells.

**Streets:** Ada - Street lights – looking at going LED for the bulbs. Only complaint from other towns is that they are a bit brighter than traditional lights from people that live near a pole. LED’s come with 10% savings. The new lights would also improve the clarity of the video cameras at night. Ada and Bob suggested it does not need to be done all at once, but encourages people to go around and look at the town see where would be most beneficial to start this – parking lot might be a good idea. Bob also suggested doing Main St. A resident via zoom offered praise for the idea, even suggesting putting some near the parks. Another resident – Jenna Vincent – offered a comment regarding the LED lights on Main St. and potential for it to be too bright. Another resident suggested dimming for the lights at certain times of the night as well. Mary Lisa expressed concern about light pollution. Ada will invite the Delmarva Power contact to a future town meeting.

**Code Enforcement:** No Report

**Board of Adjustments:**  No Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage:** Shawn Devlin was not present, but Ada Puzzo gave an update.

The FEMA grant was submitted and the town received feedback. This grant is a 90/10 – they submitted a cost-benefit analysis and the two numbers didn’t match, so they are going to tighten up the numbers and resubmit.

There is a regulation with the Archaeological Historical and Cultural Affairs division of the Kent Conservation District - ensuring that there are no historical artifacts under the ground that would be disturbed during construction. The survey is not part of the contract that the town has with Century. Shawn reached out to various companies that would conduct the survey and the only one to consider the request wants $25,100. Ada is unsure if this is a reasonable request so there will be further investigation.

A resident asked about the archeological survey. Ada said she only knows of one previous surveys done around the parking lot. Steve Rohrs believes other areas around Bowers already have the certification and is going to look into it.

**Election:** Elections will be held the second Saturday in August which is August 5th. There are two council seats open, which are the seats currently held by Bob McDevitt and Marty Manning. We will continue to give information at upcoming meetings. Please send a formal letter of interest to the Town of Bowers if you are intent on running for a position.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**UD Local Government Management Fellow (LGMF**): Ada - Was tabled in April and discussed at the working session. Need a vote tonight because not included in budget. Student hired to work 30 hours/week for 10 weeks on town projects and programs this summer. Student receives a stipend administered by UD (we don’t have to set up payroll). The cost for towns to host a UD student is usually $5,500. I told them the cost was too much for our budget, so they found funding to cover half of it for us. Cost to the town will be $2,700 - $3,000. Ada requested a motion for a vote. A motion was made by Marty Manning to approve the vote, seconded by Wayne Irons. Motion carried unanimously.

**Upcoming Museum Events:** Invitation to the town to come out to the Museum to see the new additions to the Museum, May 26 4:00-6:00 pm. There will be dinner that evening at the Firehouse. The Buccaneer Bash starts Saturday Morning, May 27 at 10:00 am with a ceremony. Encouraging people to come out and see the flag rising; some pirates will say a few words before the commencement of the weekend.

**RESIDENT TOPICS AND CONCERNS**

None submitted

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Marty Manning - None

Wayne Irons – Wayne is going to fill out the requisition for Tink for the band – Bad Juju $400. Marty will write the check. A couple residents have been complaining about the speeding and racing happening within the town. Wayne has reached out to the State Police regarding this issue and is looking to try and get someone out here. A resident suggested speed bumps, but that is not authorized on state roads. Ada suggested having a greater conversation about speed bumps at a later date after gathering more information. Another resident asked about traffic cameras, but they are illegal In Delaware.

Shirley Pennington - None

Bob McDevitt - None

Ada Puzzo – Starting the process on security cameras. Proposed a location for the singular tower – asking Judy and other museum volunteers to stay after to discuss the prime location for the tower. It is going to be 56 feet – it has to be higher than anything in the town. Ada is going to talk to Bob about the zoning and making sure that it is not going to cause any issues. There was an executive decision to give Ada the executive power to negotiate the purchasing of land. Ada did the negotiation with Ray Shore in reference to the purchasing of 11.3 acres of Marsh. They are interested in this purchase for reasons of restoring the marsh which helps with flooding and other coastal issues like drainage. There are about 200 feet on Main St. that are not in wetlands, so it is probably buildable. Bowers was selected by Bayshore Byways to be included in a grant for amenities recommended by the DMPO study done last year – like a bathhouse with toilets and self-sustaining equipment like timed lighting and self-closing faucets.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Manning, seconded by Wayne Irons, adjourn at 7:56 pm. Motion Carried.

The next town meeting will be held on June 15, 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,

**Ada Puzzo**

Mayor