

CHAPTER R – HARBOR/WATERFRONTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Preamble Mission Statement

In recognition of both the public and commercial importance of Oriental's surrounding waterways and waterfronts, the Town of Oriental establishes The Harbor/Waterfronts Advisory Committee (hereafter referred to as the HWAC) as a standing committee that will work to preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance access to public waterways, waterfronts and water-related facilities in and around the Town of Oriental. This is an advisory committee; it should instruct the Town Board through recommendations regarding the following:

1. The HWAC shall be responsible for monitoring and suggesting updates to the Harbor/Waterfronts Plan and insuring that items referred to in the plan are integrated into the town's budgeting process each year.
2. Make recommendations regarding policies and the overall use of Occupancy Tax revenues specifically restricted for maintaining and expanding the town's public water fronts.
3. The HWAC will focus on providing and obtaining the resources necessary, with approval from the Town Commissioners, to accomplish its mission and form effective, responsible public/private partnerships that can enhance the mission of the committee.
4. Monitor and recommend updates to General Ordinance - Chapter E - TOWN OF ORIENTAL DOCKING FACILITIES.
5. Monitor usage of Oriental's Harbor, waterways, waterfronts and waterfront facilities.
6. Establish HWAC rules of procedure.

Section 1 - Composition

The HWAC shall be composed of seven (7) regular members (either full-time town residents or non-resident Oriental business owners or employees associated with public or commercial water-related goods and services). At least three members must be full-time residents of the Town of Oriental. Up to two (2) members may be non-residents of the Town, but must reside in Pamlico County. The HWAC will also be served by two commissioners: one Liaison and a second Co-liaison, appointed by the Board. The Liaison may vote only to break a tie, or, if the Liaison is not present, the Co-liaison may vote to break a tie. It is highly recommended that at least one member of the HWAC also be a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. (amended 2022-284 June 7, 2022)

Section 2 - Duties

The Harbor/Waterfronts Advisory Committee (hereafter named "the Committee") shall serve as the advisory body for the Town of Oriental regarding planning, implementation and oversight of the town's public waterfronts and water-related facilities and such rules and ordinances as may apply to insure their safe and appropriate use.

The committee shall advise in the acceptance of any grant, gift, bequest or donation, any personal or real property offered or made available for water-related commercial or recreational purposes.

Section 3 - Appointment and Terms

Each member of the Committee shall be appointed by the Town Board of Commissioners. Upon appointment of the initial five members, in order to establish staggered terms, the Chairman and co-Chairman (elected from among the initial regular members) will be appointed to serve for 3 years. The Committee will then elect a secretary, who with one other member will serve for 2 years. And, the remaining member will serve for one year. Thereafter, upon a term's expiration, each appointed term will be for 2 years. The Commissioners' Liaison and Co-liaison shall serve on the Committee concurrent with their term of office.

Section 4 - Meetings

Six regular HWAC meetings will be held each year in the months of January, February, March, May, July, and October and at such other times as the committee or the Town Board consider necessary. The Chairman, Commissioner's liaison, or two members of the committee, may call a special meeting at any time allowing Town Hall at least 48 hours to notice the meeting to the public and local media. A quorum of the Committee must be in attendance and noted at the start of each meeting before action, other than selecting a meeting's time and place, can be taken.

Section 5 - Absences

Absences for which the Committee has received prior notification, or due to sickness, death, or other emergencies of like nature, shall be regarded as approved absences and shall not affect the member's status on the Committee except that the event of a long illness, or other such cause for prolonged absences, the member may be replaced. A member who misses more than three (3) consecutive meetings that are not considered "approved absences" loses his/her status as a member of the committee until either reappointed or replaced.

Section 6 - Compensation

Committee members shall serve without monetary compensation. Members shall be reimbursed for travel and subsistence to professional meetings, workshops, or conferences when such expenses have are approved by the Town Board.