

Town of Oriental, NC  
Harbor Waterfronts Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes – 10 January 2019

A quorum being present, Ms. Lisa Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. Present were Ms. Lisa Thompson, Mr. Pat Stockwell and Mr. Jim Blackerby. Commissioners present were Ms. Diane Simmons and Mr. David White along with the Town Manager, Ms. Diane Miller, and Police Officer Nic Blayney.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion of Mr. Stockwell with a second by Mr. Blackerby the minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting were approved. There was no December meeting of the Committee for lack of a quorum.

### **Old Business**

#### **Status of Current Projects:**

- Ms. Miller reported on status of damage report being submitted to FEMA
  - Town Dock #2 – missing lattice, gravel, electric vehicle charger
  - Net house flooded
  - Fishing pier damage – Upon motion of Mr. Blackerby with a second by Mr. Stockwell, the Committee unanimously agreed to add an amendment to the engineering and construction plan for the fishing pier to include access, along the lines of trap door and ladder, to a movable floating dock that can be temporarily connected to the pier at the water level for small boat races.
  - Gangway washed out at small boat dock

#### **Status NCDEQ, Golden Leaf Grant and US Fish and Wildlife Service Grants**

- NC DEQ Grant – Awarded
- Golden Leaf Grant – Awarded
- NCCF/US Fish & Wildlife Service Grant - Awarded.
  
- Whittaker Pointe Restoration Project
  - 1) Dr. Lexia Weaver, manager of NCCF's central district will work in partnership with the town on the Whittaker Point Restoration Project.
  - 2) Dec. 19 ? - Request for SOQ's (statements of qualifications) were forwarded to 11 engineering firms one of which will be chosen to design and oversee the construction of the project
  - 3) Jan. 7 - A field trip was held to provide the engineering firms with a firsthand look and background information on the Whittaker Pointe erosional condition and demonstrate its value to the community. Five firms participated. Ms. Diane Miller, Dr. Weaver NCCF, Mr. Todd Miller NCCF and Mr. Blackerby guided the trip and represented the town.
  - 4) Jan. 8 – Ms. Miller, Ms. Lisa Thompson, Dr. Weaver and Mr. Blackerby met with State and Federal permitting agencies in Washington NC for a Scoping meeting, an informational session related to restoration guidelines.
  - 5) An oysters collection bin will be placed for the Pointe living shoreline restoration project.
  
- Ms. Miller reported on the status of storm restoration projects with an update on Vandemere and 2nd Street walls, wall extension and the Fishing Pier.
  - 1) Seawalls - wall extension adjoining the Fishing Pier and pier repairs have been approved by CAMA. Neuse Fishing Pier repairs will be made after the walls are addressed.

- 2) Bobby Cahoon Construction, Grantsboro NC has been contracted to do the work.
- 3) Town did great job repairing and keeping cost in line on construction of railings along South Ave and Hodges St.
- 4) The concept of a Greenway versus rebuilding the damaged road on South Avenue was submitted by a property owner at January –8, 2019 Town meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Stockwell with a second by Mr. Blackerby the committee unanimously voted for South Avenue to remain and be rebuilt as a road as it provides emergency access to the area and also serves as an integral of the Town’s storm water runoff study and subsequent plan.

- Pump out will be shut down during winter freeze season, closure early January into March.
- Dredging Whittaker Pointe - \$79,000 has been collected to date for the matching funds. The committee discussed several options to reach the necessary final amount of \$109,389 1) fund raiser dinner, and 2) need for ideas to get town businesses fully involved.

#### **Report from Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic**

- Ms. Thompson and Ms. Simmons reported on the 3 November meeting they had with attorneys and law students from Duke. The conclusion reached was 1) a surveyor is needed to establish the Town jurisdiction over the surrounding waters. and 2) the need for local ordinances or support of state laws regarding “littering” and abandoned vessels and the appropriate enforcement response.
- Duke has set up an environmental law group. Work with county - collaborate
- All boat abandoned have no answer as of this meeting. Proposed laws could address abandoned boats. The State may provide money for removal.

#### **New Business**

##### **Committee Vacancies**

With the resignation of Mr. Tierney and the lack of attendance by Mr. Vick, the committee voted upon motion of Mr. Stockwell with a second by Mr. Blackerby to submit the names of two candidates to fill the vacancies, Mr. Dan Allen and Mr. Don McGuire, to the Commissioners for their approval at the next meeting.

##### **Boaters overstaying 48 hour Town Dock Limit**

Officer Blayney participated in the discussion of the extended stay boaters are taking advantage of the 2 day limit. Town needs to have a consistent message to the boaters about overstaying. Committee members were tasked with supplying a draft recommendation to the Commissioners on the content of the warning ticket. Guidelines might include; warning citations start a 24 hour clock to leave before a fine, filing a lien or contempt of court. Find out what can be done from a legal perspective. Officer Blayney explained that he cannot run “out of state” boat registrations. Need accurate identification information.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM with the next HWAC meeting scheduled for 14 February at 8:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Blackerby

