

Town of Oriental, NC
Harbor Waterfronts Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – April 11 2019

With a quorum being present, Ms. Lisa Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. Present were Ms. Lisa Thompson, , Mr. Dan Allen, Mr. Jim Blackerby, Commissioner Dianne Simmons and Town Manager, Ms. Diane Miller.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Upon motion of Mr. Allen with a second by Mr. Blackerby the minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting were approved.

Status of Current Projects:

- Ms. Miller requested that the HWAC help supply ideas and direction to the Town relative to storm preparedness and evacuation efforts. Commissioner White recommended that HWAC develop a list of ordinances for review that covers best practices associated with on and off the water storm preparedness. Ms. Miller and Ms. Tammy Cox are planning to attend April 14th Coast Guard preparedness planning meeting.
- The harbormaster contract is back from the attorney. The harbormaster would oversee a volunteer crew to help with pump outs, docking and general policing of the town docks. Ms. Thompson requested to have a weekly log of work added as part of the contract. The harbormaster will report to HWAC and the Town Manager. A recommendation was made to pay \$100 per week for the position.
- Town Dock #2 –electric vehicle charger is to be repaired
- Bobby Cahoon Construction Co. is rebuilding the fishing pier. The work will include a controlled access area to a removable floating dock on the south side of the pier. This addition will be used for small boat racing. Funding for the addition of a floating dock is to be paid from HWAC funds.
- The small boat dock is finished. The gangway has been replaced and is narrowed by a foot which reduced costs.
- HWAC is in the feasibility stage of adding an extension to Dinghy Dock for day use only.
- New burgees were received and sent back to correct the wrong background color
- All the decking at the dinghy dock is to be replaced including the upper deck.

Whittaker Pointe Restoration Project Update

New Business

- Quible & Associates' preliminary revetment design was reviewed by the committee.
- Quible & Greene has submitted a request to NCDEQ to hold a scoping meeting with associated permitting agencies in May. The preliminary design will be submitted for their review and comments.
- Brian Rubino acquired 12 soil samples from the Sea Harbour settling pond to analyze for sediment compatibility at Whittaker Pointe.

Ongoing

- Ms. Miller indicated that onsite Whittaker Point failed attenuators and damaged fishing pier hog slats may be redeployed for underlayment for rock revetments at the Pointe.
- Ms. Thompson reported 75 bushels of oyster shells have been gathered that will be used for living shoreline revetments along the back side of the Pointe.

Dredging Whittaker Creek Channel

New Business

- 376 letters requesting donations were mailed out to all businesses in Oriental including Whittaker Creek residents that had not donated.
- Ms. Miller, Mr. McGuire and Ms. Thompson reviewed donations submitted by local businesses to determine where to send letters.
- As of May 28, 2019, \$93,957 has been collected to date for the matching funds needed to activate the dredging grant.
- Options for dredging and disposal of dredging materials are being reviewed. Ms. Thompson has met with the contractor used in the Pierce Creek dredging and spoil site usage. The Whittaker Pointe dredging project is on schedule for a November 2019 start pending funding and contracting a dredging company.

Ongoing

- The HWAC committee may be put to task to generate the dredging permit. It appears a grant extension may be approved and have it activated by July 1, 2019.
- The original dredging permit file has been located. This file may make the difference between having to go through a CAMA major versus a CAMA minor maintenance dredging permit.
- CAMA has requested a photo of the channel to determine guidelines on the width of the channel. HWAC recommended redoing the bathymetry of the channel.

Abandoned Boats/Policing Town Waterways

- Commissioner White recommended a draft document be submitted at the next HWAC meeting that does the following:
 1. selects rules taken from the Beaufort and Brunswick Co. waterways rules that best fits the Town of Oriental needs and
 2. provides for added comments by the committee.
- Mr. Allen has originated a draft for the Town of Oriental mainly derived from the Beaufort ordinance document and to a lesser extent Brunswick Co's. This document will be tied in with the Coast Guard Abandon Boats program and state jurisdiction and rules application. The document is under review by the committee. It was noted that Beaufort approached the jurisdiction issue as a town under the 160 A statute whereas Brunswick being a county is held to a different set of state statutes.
- Ms. Thompson proposed that the Coast Guard provide EF 10 coverage which not only has the Coast Guard giving notice to the owner of the derelict boat, but also will remove the boat after a storm. Ms. Thompson will further research the EF 10 designation option that provides money for removal.
- A Mini brooks provision has been approved to award a contract for a survey of Oriental navigable waters. The surveyor has yet to respond. This will be an official document.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 AM with the next meeting scheduled for 13 June at 8:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Blackerby

