

Town of Oriental, NC
Harbor Waterfronts Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – 9 January, 2020

With a quorum being present, Ms. Lisa Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. Present were Ms. Lisa Thompson, Commissioner Diane Simmons; Commissioner David White; Town Manager, Ms. Diane Miller; Mr. Pat Stockwell; Mr. Jim Blackerby; and Mr. Dan Allen. Commissioner Martin Barrow observed.

1. Status of Current Projects

a. Whittaker Point Restoration –

- i. The Whitaker Point RFP is complete. It is 128 pages long, and is very detailed. The oyster bag work and vegetation replenishment are being placed in a separate RFP to assure the proper expertise is involved for that part of the project. The RFP bidding process is being run by Brian and the engineering firm, so the town closely monitors, but is not directly involved in responding to bidders.
- ii. Public notices are being finalized to go out in the Pamlico News, Washington Times and one other paper. There have been several calls asking for bid packages, so the work has a lot of interest.
- iii. The paperwork for USDA money is being finalized, bidding cannot start before all USDA Grant funding is finalized. If all goes as planned, work to drop rocks could start before the end of March.

b. Whittaker Creek Dredging –

- i. The town leased the spoil site and work has been underway to remove all the other spoils/dirt from the site so it can be filled with spoils from Whittaker Creek dredging. Work is going well, it should be complete by Jan 11.
- ii. The bid is almost ready to go out for dredging Whittaker Creek from marker 3 to 7. According to Kevin Hart at CAMA, the dredging permit is in for final signatures now. Once complete, the dredging bid can go out. The Grant runs out in June, the dredging will take 3 weeks, so barring the unforeseen there is time to get the dredging done before the grant expires. There are several people farther up Whittaker Creek that want to contract directly with the same company the town awards the bid to so they can have dredging done. None have pursued getting permits, so they may not be able to take advantage of the opportunity.

c. Abandoned Boats –

- i. A discussion of draft 5 of the Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) Ordinance concluded we should prohibit any anchoring anywhere in

Oriental waters during a named storm and timing should run parallel with what is already in place for the town docks. Dan will update the draft version.

- ii. The ADV ordinance still cannot be presented to the commissioners for action until the state legislature grants the town jurisdiction over its waters. The map showing the waters within the town's jurisdiction was completed last fall. All concluded it makes sense to run two tracks to get legislative authority to get jurisdiction for the town's waters. One as a group of towns together, and another as a local bill that includes New Bern and Oriental. Diane will start the ball rolling and reach out to Paula Gillikin, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, Div. of Coastal Management or her boss Joy Hicks as well as Mark in New Bern. Diane will also reach out to the county as well as the fishing community so they are aware of what we're trying to do, and ensure people understand the intention is not to interrupt any fishing, commercial or recreational. Diane is the single voice to speak with others so we don't send mixed signals.

d. Fishing Pier –

- i. There needs to be a fixed ladder on fishing pier to go to a floating dock, and we still need to get a floating "Easy Dock" for there. They need to be in place before the college regatta in mid-April. Pat will work with Easy Docks in Morehead to acquire, Lisa to provide specs. The town has a flatbed trailer to transport the docks, and a place to store the docks when not in use.
- ii. There was a question of whether there should be a permanently installed ladder on the pier, or have one that can be easily removed after use so people don't try to use the ladder on an ongoing basis without the floating dock in place. Discussion was tabled until after we get the Easy Dock.

2. Committee Action Items:

- a. The Budget planning retreat is first Friday in March at 8 am. The HWAC will need to have recommendations for initiatives during the next budget cycle. We do know the "Net House" needs work, we also previously discussed adding a floating dinghy dock. Diane will provide information about what expenses have been over past year, Lisa will provide a spreadsheet of prior HWAC wish list items. All to be reviewed in the February HWAC meeting.
- b. Lisa and Town Maintenance personnel will be winterizing the town docks over the next week. Heat strips are being put in place to protect water lines, the pump out will be closed for winter (until mid-March).

c. The contract for a “Harbor Master” has been approved by the attorney, and the plan is to advertise the position in March.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Allen