

**To: Oriental Town Board**

**From: Debra Khouri, BRMSD Board Member**

**Re: The Bay River Metropolitan Sewerage District Board at its meeting held on January 17 and March 21, 2019.**

**Debra Khouri was not present at the January meeting but according to the minutes the only actions were:**

1. Reelection of the Board Officers to continue at current status.
2. Voting for Chris Venters to continue at his current status.
3. Donating our 2008 used truck to the town of Vandermere.

### **March Meeting**

#### **Guest Tim Buck**

Tim Buck came on behalf of the county to inform the board of some failing septic tanks in the Breighmere Subdivision. The board informed him that we had no funds available to incorporate the subdivision into our system but if they could find the funds, Bay River would be happy to consult and assist them in adding the needed lines.

#### **FEMA Update**

The District has been working with the huge amount of paperwork required by FEMA. They have determined a 20% loss to our spray field as a result of the hurricane and heavy rains. Much more work will be required to get some assistance on this storm damage.

#### **Good News**

A couple of years ago Chris Venters applied for an "Asset Inventory and Assessment (AIA)" grant that would allow us to digitize our maps and use a GPS system to track all of our system. He assumed that we were not considered as nothing was heard for many months. Happily, we were recently informed that we were one of the 34 systems in the state that received a \$150,000 grant. This will make a huge savings in time and manpower when implemented.

## Tourism Board Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2019

Attendees: Marsha Palpham, Dianne Simmons, Suzanne Gwaltney, Carol Mabe

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by Chair Palpham.

There was discussion of the agenda for the upcoming Quarterly Meeting of Businesses and Non-Profits hosted by the Tourism Board at Brantley's Restaurant on Thursday, February 21 at 8:00 am. Key topics will be discussion of recent promotional and advertising efforts by the Tourism Board, ideas for getting non-profit organizations and businesses throughout the area more involved in drawing visitors to the town, upcoming events, Whittaker Creek Dredging fundraising status and celebration activity, county priorities, etc.

Discussion was held on the status of the WC Dredging Fundraising and the need to reignite interest in this critical project after months of focus on hurricane damage and rebuilding. Ideas included holding another public information session at the Old Theatre like the kick-off last July to reiterate the project impact, grants received, matching funds raised and next steps to bring the project to completion. It was noted that very few businesses have contributed to the funds, yet they are very dependent of boats, boaters and tourists coming to the area for their success. We agreed to work with the Town Manager to push this project forward.

The group discussed the great six-page article in the March issue of Our State magazine and the ad placed in the Coast Host section of the publication. The next ads will run in the May and June issues, with May featuring a "come and relax" theme and June featuring the July Croakerfest.

The group agreed to place a full-page Oriental ad in the 2019 Pamlico County Visitors Guide again this year.

There was a discussion of enhancing the look of Oriental for the holidays with additional lighted street decorations being purchased with Tourism funds, and developing a competitive challenge to all homeowners and businesses in town to decorate their properties to the max to "light up Oriental". Details will be worked out on a competition to get folks involved.

The annual Town Wide Yard Sale run by Tourism will be held May 4<sup>th</sup>. Ads will be placed in the County Compass and Pamlico News to drive participation, and Town Dock will be asked to help promote the event. Marsha will coordinate sign-ups of participants and Carol will ask Bill Wheeler to do the map of sale locations again this year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Tree Board Meeting  
Regular Meeting  
February 26, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Oriental Tree Board was held at Town Hall on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. One member absent, Dick Creighton.

**AGENDA**

1. Roll Minutes - The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Old Business -
  - Phil Borders with assistance picked up the trees from Worthington.
  - Oriental's Arbor Day will be Saturday, March 23.
3. New Business -
  - Bob Miller will make the presentation for the Tree Board at the Town Retreat.
  - 2019 Budget needs - The Tree Board has \$2500 left for this fiscal year. It has been determined that some of that sum will need to be used for contract pruning.
  - We will be focusing on Area 1 this year.
  - It is noted that extra soil and pine straw will be needed.
4. Adjourn and plant trees.

**Respectfully submitted by Toni Leavitt**

**DRAFT**  
Town of Oriental, NC  
Harbor Waterfronts Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes – 14 February 2019

**Oath of Office to New Committee Members**

Town Manager, Diane Miller, administered the oath of office to Dan Allen and Don McGuire.

With a quorum being present, Ms. Lisa Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:05AM. Present were Ms. Lisa Thompson, Mr. Pat Stockwell, Mr. Dan Allen, Mr. Don McGuire and Mr. Jim Blackerby. Commissioners present were Ms. Dianne Simmons, Mr. David White and Mr. Allen Price. and Town Manager, Ms. Diane Miller.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion of Mr. Blackerby with a second by Mr. Allen the minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

**Status of Current Projects:**

- Town Dock #2 –electric vehicle charger remaining to be repaired
- Town Dock #1 – railing along Hodges Str. completed
- Fishing pier – new wall connecting the pier is complete. Damage bids are out for pier rebuild. The bid is to include an access area to a removable floating dock for use during small boat racing. Funding for the addition is to be paid from HWAC funds.
- Gangway washed out at small boat dock. FEMA will fund this work. Looking at several different companies
- HWAC is in the feasibility stage of adding an extension to Dinghy Dock for day use only.

**Whittaker Pointe Restoration Project**

Ms. Thompson reported that Dr. Lexia Weaver, manager of NCCF's central district, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Blackerby had the first meeting with the selected engineering firm of Quible & Greene on 8 Feb 2019. Quible & Greene recently made a trip to the point for inspection and contacted the offsetting property owner about the Town's right of way.. The owner indicated that he supports the work and does not have a problem with the right of way. HWAC plans to check the footprint and condition of the right of way since it may have been impacted by Florence.

**Dredging Whittaker Pointe**

- \$83,650 has been collected to date for the matching funds.
- The Tourism Board is planning a fund raiser gala to be held near the end of March. The goal is to engage all businesses
- The HWAC committee may be put to task to generate the dredging permit. Priority is to apply to extend the grant and have it activated by July 1.
- HWAC recommended to redo the bathymetry of the channel.

**Abandoned Boats**

## DRAFT

- Commissioner Simmons reported on the meeting she and Commissioner Overcash had with City of Beaufort to obtain information about controlling their waterways. Their takeaways were: 1) Beaufort obtained state legislation (a local bill) to support control of their harbor 2) determined their shoreline and on the water jurisdiction 3) they obtained and use a police boat to enforce compliance within their jurisdiction and 4) obtained a grant from NOAA to fund removal of derelict boats
- Ms. Diane Miller reported on Brunswick Co. – ordinance provides strict enforcement of rules covering overstaying boats
- Mr. Pat Stockwell made a motion to recommend that the town board of commissioners provide funding for surveying the Oriental waterways to establish the town's jurisdiction. Mr. Dan Allen seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Mr. Allen will contact Brunswick Co. to get information on how they obtained jurisdiction of their waterways. He will also contact the Coast Guard to obtain their waterway guidelines on local jurisdiction

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

The Committee adopted the warning notice proposed by Commissioner White.

### **New Business**

- Ms. Miller requested that the HWAC help supply ideas and direction to the Town relative to storm preparedness and evacuation efforts. Examples include how to accomplish getting all waterlines shut off that feed private docks and getting residents to evacuate in the event of a mandatory evacuation order
- Ms. Miller reported on her attendance at the quarterly Area Committee Meeting hosted by the Coast Guard which focused on storm reports in addition to hazmat and emergency management planning.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> is the budget retreat conference to be held at Town Hall

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Blackerby