

# Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Minutes

## April 20, 2023

**Present:** Margaret Johnson (Chairperson), Maureen Burns, Carolina Candelaria, Lee Maxwell, David Merkle, Chris Riegert, Allen Dearry, David Sonnenfeld

**Absent:** Pam Johnson

**Staff:** Brady Golden

**Guests:** Sue Davidson, Elise Snavelly, Bill Millard (Davis Canal Trail), Phil and Sue Dudley (Tree Peace)

### Meeting called to order at 0830hrs.

- **Motion to Accept Meeting Agenda-** 1. Chris Riegert 2. Lee Maxwell  
Approved- Unanimously
- **Motion to Accept February 2023 Minutes-** 1. Chris Rieger 2. Maureen Burns Approved- Unanimously

### Announcements

- Lisa Stites (Town Clerk) addressed the committee and had all members sign an agreement titled “OKI Policy and Procedures For Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions, Committees and Authorities.” All signed except Pam Johnson.
- Margaret Johnson (EAC Committee Chair) informed the committee that Pam Johnson had resigned from the committee.
- Margaret Johnson (EAC Committee Chair) reassured the committee members that policies and procedures are evolving with respect to staff-committee member interfacing and to be patient.
- There are four (4) applicant positions open for EAC membership. Applications for those positions are due May 2. Go to the town website for more information.

### Staff Reports

- **New Budget Requests-** Mr. Golden reviewed the form to request new funding and fielded several questions related to funding already at EAC’S disposal from the Storm Water funding, and what constitutes new funding. He also talked about supporting information related to requested dollar amounts. The committee still has several questions concerning the town’s budget processes and procedures regarding committees. **Mr. Golden has the action to find out when the deadline is for budget submissions.**
- Margaret Johnson (EAC Committee Chair) made a request to form a EAC Budget Working Group.  
**Motion:** *There was a Motion made to form a EAC Working Group to formulate a budget and a budget submittal (s).* The motion was made by Allen Dearry and seconded by Chris Riegert. Approved- Unanimously.  
**Motion:** *There was an additional Motion made for the EAC Working Group to meet in addition to the monthly EAC meeting. Date to be determined by the EAC Working Group chairperson- Allen Dearry.* The motion was made by Allen Dearry and seconded by Chris Riegert. Approved- Unanimously.

## Old Business

- **Lecture Series-** The next EAC sponsored lecture will be on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 8:30pm at the 801 Center. We welcome Bonnie Mitchell from the NC Coastal Federation. Topic is Living Shorelines For details go to the EAC webpage, The Current and/or OKI Town Calendar. (Sue Davidson)
- **EAC Webpage-** The EAC webpage went live mid-March 2023 and is accessed from a link under the ***Environmental Advisory Committee*** section under ***Boards & Committees*** at the top of the Oak Island website. Next improvements will include a Living Shorelines and a References/ Bibliography dropdowns, and more graphics and pictures. (Allen Dearry/David Sonnenfeld)
- **Smart Yards-** No Update (David Merkle)
- **Earth Day** – Cancelled due to weather. (Town)
- **Arbor Day-** Arbor Day this year will be on April 28. Carolina C will draft a proclamation to be sent to Lisa Stites (Town Clerk) for her to have Mayor White sign. The EAC Chairperson will ask Mayor White to attend if possible. This event will be publicized on the EAC webpage and The Current. Tree planting by students will start at 9:00am at Bill Smith Park. Six donated trees will be planted and festivities will end by 11:00am. Other environmental exhibits - like Smart Yards, and storm water exhibits- will be there to add to the educational opportunities. (Carolina Candelaria)  
**Motion:** *There was a Motion made to accept and support the agenda for the Arbor Day event.* The motion was made by David Merkle and seconded by Chris Riegert. Approved- Unanimously.
- **Skip the Straw-** A motion was made. (Lee Maxwell)  
**Motion:** *There was a Motion made to advise the Town of Oak Island to discourage plastic straws and utensils at EAC events.* The motion was made by Lee Maxwell and seconded by Allen Dearry. Approved- Unanimously.
- **Living Shoreline-** Next cleanup is an Oak Island and EAC event that is scheduled for **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 0830hrs-1000 hrs.** during low tide. There will be instructions and work on the Living Shoreline project oyster reefs located at western end of Veterans Park. **Volunteers are needed.** Gloves, boots, and clothing that can get muddy are the basic attire needed for this event. These events will be held quarterly, and will be advertised on places like the EAC webpage and the Cape Fear Coastal Federation website. (Elise Snively)  
**Motion:** *There was a Motion made to support the living shoreline cleanup at the western end of Veterans Park on May 13<sup>th</sup>.* The motion was made by Carolina Candelaria and seconded by Lee Maxwell. Approved- Unanimously.
- **Recycling-** The recycling initiative needs funds to print more magnet recycling placards. Funding available via the storm water division. (Maureen Burns)
- **EAC Tree Protection Recommendations.** Chris Riegert presented the EAC recommendations to the Oak Island Town Council at their Budget meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Video of the meeting can be found on the Town's website under Town Council Special Meetings. The EAC recommendations regarding tree protection under the Town's UDO #32 and an EAC proposed zoning overlay to protect trees

was directed to the Oak Island Planning Board. (Chris Riegert, Allen Dearry, David Merkle)

## New Business

- **Proposed Davis Canal Walking Trail-** Bill Millard presented a proposal using a power point presentation. He is proposing constructing a trail from the 29<sup>th</sup> street crossway bridge west to the Middleton bridge. The trail would be located on the south side of the Davis Canal. The trail presently is a piecemeal of developed to undeveloped sections. The proposed trail is on CAMA land and would need their approval to complete. There also would be funding needed to complete the trial and volunteers needed to complete the trail. EAC part would be limited to environmental advisory and education opportunities. Of course, EAC volunteers are welcome. Contact Bill for more information. (Bill Millard, Recreation Advisory Board)



Meeting was Adjourned at 1020hrs

*Minutes submitted by: David Sonnenfeld*