

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Minutes

November 02, 2023

Present: Margerat Johnson (Chairperson), Lee Maxwell (Vice Chairperson), Elise Snavelly, Allen Dearry, David Sonnenfeld, Vacant, Vacant, Vacant

Absent: Sue Davidson

Staff: None

Guests Hon. Bill Craft, Rick Barry

Meeting called to order at 0830hrs.

- **Motion to Accept Meeting Agenda-** 1. Lee Maxwell 2. Elise Snavelly
Approved Unanimously
- **Motion to Accept September 2023 Minutes-** 1. Lee Maxwell 2. Elise Snavelly
Approved Unanimously

Announcements

Adopt-A-Highway- Rick Barry from Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) attended the EAC -who sponsors the initiative- to give an update on the initiative and ask for volunteer support. Rick took over for Skip Cox after Skip retired. The last pickup along the AAH route (E. Oak Island Drive from SE 59th to the Old Bridge) October 20th. The volunteers picked up about 100lbs of trash. The next pickup is not scheduled yet but Rick will give a 2-3 week hedsup to his volunteers. The AAH's Charter needs renewed in January 2024. He has to have the people on his established volunteer list sign new liability waivers. Because EAC sponsors AAH, he will send the waiver renewal paperwork to the EAC Chairperson so she can submit them to the proper authority.

EAC is going to add Adopt-a-Highway to the EAC webpage. Rick will send the EAC webpage administrators a writeup to help them shape the content for the webpage. ...

Ad Hoc Membership Request- Bob Greene attended the EAC meeting and introduced himself. He shared his interest in the EACs recycling initiative, and his willingness to work on the effort as an EAC ad hoc member. He believes he can help market more effectively the recycling effort to the Oak Island public. We hope he joins EAC.

Town Councilperson Representative- The Honorable Bill Craft, Oak Island Town Councilperson, attended the EAC meeting to lend his support and hear EAC concerns. All the EAC members described their frustrations with the advisory committee/board system and processes, and the need to reform advisory committee/board system and processes to allow the members to better serve the Oak Island Town Council, Town Staff and Public. Bill believes, and EAC members concurred, that a more open and defined communication protocol needs to be implemented to allow all parties to work effectively together for the betterment of the town.

In addition, EAC told Bill about the EAC Governance Document and 2024-25 Budget they produced, and he supported the EAC presenting those documents to Town Council in December 2023 for approval. He said he would be the EAC's champion.

Staff Report

- Mr. Brady Golden- Absent. No Report.
- Mr. Rick Patterson (Stormwater Chief)- Absent. No Report.
- **Update-- Stormwater Educational Meeting for Contractors-** The first presentation to local contractors is scheduled for November 6th from 6-8 pm at the Oak Island Community Center. This is an invite only event, and Rick is planning on sending out 50 invitations. The first lecture topic will be regarding "Pervious Concrete". The catering will be from Wallace Catering. EAC assisted in setting up this event. (Margaret Johnson)
- **Update-- Friends of Stormwater Awards-** Margerat Johnson (EAC Chairperson) and Elise Snavelly (EAC Member) designed a plaque emblem to be awarded to establishments that conform to stormwater containment and dispersal requirements. Rick has approved the design. He would like the EAC to spearhead the presentation effort including Town Council presents at the award event and advertising of the award event. (Margaret Johnson)

Old Business

- **Action Items-** will be reviewed week to week at the beginning of Old Business. They will be added to the December 2023 meeting agenda for review.
- **Living Shoreline-** There will be another workday on Saturday November 11 from 11am to 1 pm (low tide driven). This will be a trash pickup only.

In addition, Elise is starting the process to secure NC Coastal Federation (NCCF) grant funding. This includes getting quotes and approval to start the grant process. (Elise Snavelly)

- **Membership-** Three (3) EAC vacancies need filled. Not only do we have to recruit new members but we must retain the ones we have on the EAC. Mr. Golden and the EAC Chairperson are working the recruitment issue along with every member of the EAC. In the meantime, EAC membership must determine which EAC initiatives and projects to focus on and which to leave dormant until new members are brought on board to work them.

While we cannot lose site of why people have resigned from EAC, we must stay the course, keep a positive outlook, and remember why we are EAC members. We

can expect some victories and some failures, but in the end the good we do is what's important. Stay vigilant. (Margaret Johnson)

- **Educational Project Team (EPT)-** Even though because of the loss of members this initiative is on hold, we must support the town's Tree City USA effort and Arbor Day. There was talk about moving Arbor to the fall to allow for the trees we plant during this event have a better chance of survival. All agreed. (Allen Dearry, David Sonnenfeld, Sue Davidson)
- **EAC Budget Team (EBT)- FY 2024 EAC Budget Approval.** The proposed FY 2024 EAC budget was presented and a motion was made to approve the budget after a number of amended changes to line category names and cost amounts were completed and distributed to EAC members. The EAC FY 2024 budget – about \$8000- needs to be submitted to Town Staff and the Town Mayor by Monday, October 9th. (Allen Dearry- Lead, Sue Davidson, Lee Maxwell, David Sonnenfeld)

Motion: *There was a Motion that the EAC approve the amended version of the EAC FY 2024 budget as presented by the EBT Lead.* The motion was made by Allen Dearry and seconded by David Sonnenfeld. Approved- Unanimously. **No Report. Being reviewed by EBT to reduce and further justify amount requested.**

- **EAC Sustainable Economic Development (SED) Team -** The SED's goals are to promote the advantages of planned green growth and recommend avenues for educating the public on green growth. The SED Lead presented their recommendations to the EAC from a briefing he distributed to EAC members before the meeting. The contents are reproduced on the last page of the minutes. A motion was made to initiate the first recommendation to educate to provide an SED educational opportunity. (Allen Dearry- Lead, Lee Maxwell, Chris Riegert)

Motion: *There was a Motion made that the EAC provide the Town of Oak Island staff, committee members and the interested public an educational workshop on the topic of "Sustainable Economic Development".* The motion was made by Allen Dearry and seconded by Elise Snavelly. Approved- Unanimously. **No Action Reported.**

- **EAC Governance Document-** Final draft was completed based on EAC member input and was sent to Mr. Golden for staff review right after the September EAC meeting for Town Staff feedback. EAC received no feedback from Mr. Golden. A motion to approve the document and subsequent submittal to Oak Island Town Council for approval was delayed at the November 2023 monthly meeting. Additional edits were requested and will be sent out again to EAC members for review. If no additional edits are requested and the document is approved by EAC, it will be presented to the Oak Island Town Council in December 2023. (David Sonnenfeld)

- **EAC Webpage-** October 2023 Minutes were posted.

Meeting Note-

All communication between EAC membership and the Oak Island Communication Director concerning the EAC webpage shall go through Allen Dearry and David Sonnenfeld, and Margerat Johnson (EAC Chairperson), Brady Golden (EAC Town Representative) and Lisa Stites (Town Clerk; regarding EAC Minutes) shall be cc'd. This directive was reenforced at the meeting by the EAC Chairperson.

Open Actions:

David presented to the EAC members that the next phase of the EAC webpage development in June 2023 to add an educational section. On hold for now.

Motion: *There was a Motion made to the EAC to form an EAC Educational Team to determine the next steps in EAC webpage development.* The motion was made by Allen Dearry and seconded by Lee Maxwell. Approved- Unanimously. **On hold until remaining EAC vacancies are filled.** (Margaret Johnson)

There was a request from the EAC membership to add a Calendar table to the EAC webpage. And the membership would like to explore obtaining webpage analytics of accesses to the EAC webpage to determine the extent the EAC webpage is being utilized for information. Allen and David will work with Mike Emory, Oak Island Communicator Director, to determine what can be reasonably done.

- **Skip the Plastic Straw Initiative (SPSI)- Ready to implement** –27 of 46 Oak Island establishments have accepted utilizing non-plastic straws and four (5) have not accepted the program. He is working with his volunteers during this busy time to visit all the identified establishments this summer. Reference the EAC webpage for more information. Working on ways to get the message out to the consumer and encourage them to not use plastic straws. (Lee Maxwell)

Meeting was Adjourned at 10:30 am

Motion: *There was a Motion made to adjourn the October 2023 EAC meeting.* The motion was made by Allen Dearry and seconded by Lee Maxwell. Approved- Unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: David Sonnenfeld