

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Minutes

December 07, 2023

Present: Margerat Johnson (Chairperson), Lee Maxwell (Vice Chairperson), Elise Snavely, Allen Dearry, Sue Davidson, Vacant, Vacant, Jewelean Mustard (New Member)

Absent: David Sonnenfeld

Staff: Brady Golden, Rick Patterson

Guests Hon. Bill Craft

Meeting called to order at 0830hrs.

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| ➤ <u>Motion to Accept Meeting Agenda-</u> | 1. Lee Maxwell | 2. Jewelean Mustard |
| Approved Unanimously | | |
| ➤ <u>Motion to Accept September 2023 Minutes-</u> | 1. Lee Maxwell | 2. Elise Snavely |
| Approved Unanimously | | |

Announcements

- Jeweleen Mustard was introduced to the EAC as the newest member. She has lived on Oak Island less than a year and hails from Knoxville, Tennessee. She has a Marketing background. Welcome Jeweleen!
- The EAC Chairperson, Margaret Johnson restated again to respect protocol as described in the draft EAC governance document that most communication for EAC matters comes from her. She can delegate direct communication to individual project leads -like for example- the EAC website administration and the living shoreline initiatives.

Staff Report

- **Mr. Brady Golden-** No Report. No update about the Carton Council Grant.
- **Mr. Rick Patterson (Stormwater Chief)-** He reported on the following-
 - **Update-- Stormwater Educational Meeting for Contractors-** Two (2) workshops were held to date. They averaged about 20 contractors. The workshops were well received. The next workshop is for Monday, January 08, 2024.
 - **Update-- Friends of Stormwater Awards-** “Friends of Stormwater” plaques are ready for distribution for three (3) businesses. The plaques will be dated for 2023. Rick prefers to have a Town Council member and an EAC member to make the three (3) separate presentations. Action item: Rick will contact Mike Emory to explore next steps in making 2023 plaque presentations. Bill Craft stated he can present at Town Council meetings in 2024.
 - **New- Tree City USA and Arbor Day Update** – Rick stated that a report is due confirming that Oak Island is still in compliance with Tree City USA

requirements. He wants to confirm when the Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for in the Spring 2024. He prefers that it be on Arbor Day, April 26. EAC assistance is needed. Town will give away tree seedlings.

Maragret Johnson proposed that an EAC project team be formed to help plan the Tree City and Arbor Day activities. She suggested involving the South Brunswick honor society students. Earth Day is April 22. The Recreation Center plans and coordinates the Earth Day fair. Elise Snavely will check with the Recreation Center coordinator regarding the town's Earth Day celebration. The question was asked- "Can Earth Day and Arbor Day be combined?" It has been previously done in the past. More will be discussed at the next EAC meeting on January 4th.

- **New- Oak Island Tree Survey-** Rick stated that his department has completed tagging 400 trees on Town property. The field collected data included tree location, species, dbh (diameter at breast height), and health. The data was recorded in an Excel spreadsheet and GIS maps were created describing the tree locations.

Tree preservation project maps and data are available to the public through the Town's webpage under the *Stormwater Department/Tree Preservation Project*.

- **Honorable Bill Craft-** He made clear what he meant to say at the November 2023 EAC meeting is that when the Town's budget meetings take place, he will get EAC an audience with Town Council. That will most likely occur in January 2024 but not this December 2023.

Old Business

- **Action Items-** *<Review separate list of action items and motions from previous meetings and close any action items and/or motions that are completed or will not be pursued.>*

Note: Margaret listed three (3) action items from the master EAC action list in her agenda.

- Governance Document- Allen/David in absentia. Five (5) minutes will be given at the January 09, 2024 Town Council meeting to present the EAC Governance Document and EAC Website.
- Webpage Administration/Calendar table- Allen. No discussion.
- Membership. No discussion.

None of the remaining outstanding action items and/or unfulfilled motions were reviewed.

- **Living Shoreline-** There was a workday on Saturday November 11 from 11am to 1 pm (low tide driven). This was a trash pickup only. Volunteers picked up about 150

lb. of trash. Elise would like to get an article into the Oak Island Current. She will draft the article and work through proper channels to get it published. (Elise Snavely)

- **Educational Project Team (EPT)-** On hold until new members are appointed to EAC and are interested in participating on the EPT. (Allen Dearry, Lee Maxwell)
- **Skip the Plastic Straw Initiative (SPSI)-** 32 of 46 Oak Island establishments have accepted utilizing non-plastic straws and seven (7) have not accepted the program. Four (4) additional businesses may accept the program. He has drafted an article regarding the Straw project and has submitted the article to the EAC Chairperson for review and approval to have published. He wants to incorporate comments from one or more of the project participants. He is also scheduled to present the project to the new Town Council at the January 4th council meeting.

He asked Rick Patterson that the Straw Initiative Project be applied to the Town's supplies for Town supported-events and buildings. ***Rick Patterson was not supportive of extending compostable supplies to Town supported events nor buildings.*** Action item: Brady Golden to see who is Town purchasing agent to inquire further regarding Lee's inquiry. Note: If the Town will not embrace the Straw Initiative project regarding their own supplies, why should Town businesses? (Lee Maxwell)

- **Live & Local- After Action Report/Future Participation-** Sue Davidson reported that the Recreation Center Representative will get the EAC a list of the Spring 2024 events. EAC will plan their participation schedule from that information. (Margaret Johnson, Sue Davidson)
- **EAC Sustainable Economic Development (SED) Team** – The SED team has a PowerPoint and draft proposal outlining the need for an educational workshop on sustainable economic development for town staff, elected officials, and committee members. The Honorable Bill Craft suggested that the workshop idea should be run by the Town Manager, David Kelly. The SED team may also contact the Town's Economic Development Director, Hallie Willis, although it is not clear that sustainability falls within her charge. The SED team will reexamine the draft workshop proposal to see if it can be strengthened for use with town staff. The new EAC member, Jewelean Mustard, will join the SED team.
- **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 Snavely. Approved- Unanimously. ***October 2023***

*Notes for Minutes taken by Allen Dearry
Minutes compiled and submitted by: David Sonnenfeld*