

THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS

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Waterways Management Advisory Board
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 4pm
Town Office

Call to order – John Marrah opened the meeting at 4:07pm.

Present: John Marrah, Mark Van Fleet, Roy Myers, applicant representative Shaun Callahan of Lane Engineering, Mark Bailey of Bailey Marine, Commissioner Mike Bibb, and Town Manager Jean Weisman were present. Mark Welsh was not in attendance.

Approval of minutes

Member Van Fleet made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2018 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Member Myers and carried on a vote of 3:0:1 in favor.

Review of building Permit #5143 for Davis Wood to emplace one mooring pile 16 ft. channel ward of mean high water at 203 Green Street. Chairman Marrah noted the proposed mooring pile is within the lateral lines within the harbor development line. After some discussion Chairman Marrah made a motion to forward a recommend approval and being compliant with town code. The motion was seconded by Member Myers pending all final permits and carried on a vote of 3:0:1 in favor.

Presentation by Jim Bass of Eastern Shore Land Conservancy regarding Sea Level Rise.

Action Items from Sea Level Rise Discussion:

1. The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) is finishing a report on the impact of sea level rise including possible zoning recommendations that might be helpful to the Town's Zoning Re-write project. Jim Bass of the ESLC agreed to make the report available to Jean and the Waterways Board. After reviewing the report, the Waterways Board will ask Ms. Weisman to set up a review and discussion with the Town's Zoning Re-write Committee on sea level rise in St. Michaels.
2. Commissioner Mike Bibb will get the Waterways Board a contact for the upcoming State report on the impact of sea level rise on St. Michaels. The Waterways Board would like to set up a review and evaluation meeting with the State.
3. Jim Bass indicated Talbot County had a report on "climate change/sea level rise" for our area. Ms. Weisman will pursue and provide to the Waterways Board.
4. The Waterways Board discussed visiting Chestertown to review their recent major waterfront restoration. Member Roy Myers will pursue this opportunity.

5. Roy Myers will attend the January 15th meeting of the Eastern Shore Climate Adoption Task Force (ESCAP) to gain an understanding of issues, actions and programs that could be relevant and beneficial for St. Michaels.
6. Members of the Board plan to attend the ESLC Climate Conference on March 23rd at the Oxford Community Center.
7. The Waterways Board discussed the goal of defining waterway and harbor improvement recommendations which would allow St. Michaels to continue as a viable tourist destination despite the impact of projected sea level rise.

To start, the Waterways Board members agreed to identify, and to bring to a work session at the next meeting, their first draft of the Top 10 actions necessary to protect the Town harbor and waters from sea level rise over the next 15 years.

The end goal is to develop a prioritized list of actionable improvements to mitigate sea level rise, which could then be presented to the Commissioners for consideration and budget funding.

8. After the Waterways Board has had a chance to gather and digest the above information regarding sea level rise, they discussed a future information gathering meeting with the businesses and residents around the St. Michaels harbor. The goal would be to gather their input, concerns and priorities to address sea level rise in St. Michaels harbor and waterways.

A report prepared by ESLC, Mainstreaming Sea Level Rise – Preparedness in Local Planning and Policy on Maryland’s Eastern Shore presented and discussed.

Other matters from Advisory Board or Staff.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.

Minutes approved as submitted by 3:0 vote in favor on 26th day of February, 2019.



John Marrah, Chairman