



Saxis Town Meeting

Saxis Town Hall

Monday, September 3, 2024 @ 7:00pm— Warm 78' nice

Council Members Present: Lee Miles, Denise Chance, Darrell Marshall, and Wayne McCleary, Bryan Shreaves

Mayor Denise Drewer- Present

Town Clerk Mariann Miller-Present

Town residents present: Eileen M, Zach Martin (Army Corp of Eng), Bo Lusk (Natural Conservative) Russ Burke (Nature Conservative) Greg Williams, Payton Mallory, Christine Winary, Heather Lockwood (All Army Corp of Engineers) GUESTS

Town Residents: M.K. Miles, Marianne and Steve Dexter, Don Porter, Andy and Holly Linton, Beverly Hart, Tammy Miles, Jan and Lou Ann Foerster, James and Patricia Ahern, Barry & Cheryl McCready, Tom O'Connor and Rebecca Martin, Leonard White, Bill and Melanie Bailey, William Bailey, Brad Taylor, Donnie Porter, Mike Clair, and Aubrey Justice.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Denise Drewer.

Mariann Miller-clerk opened with the Lord's Prayer.

August 5, 2024, meeting minutes were reviewed. Lee motioned to accept the minutes as written, and Wayne seconded the motion. Minutes accepted. Unanimously passed.

General Business

Heather Lockwood opened introducing everyone and why they were all there. We received a \$250,000.00 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery Program for the restoration of Oysters in Saxis as well as helping save or at least help preserve our Shoreline. She introduced Peyton Mallory. They have been studying maps and gathering data since we talked last. We anticipate starting this project 2026-2027. We want to be sure we are solving problems as well as looking at the restoration objective for the shoreline. We want to do some Near Shore Reefs or Sanctuaries. This will help benefit crabs, oysters and help the economy. It will improve ecological function and help preserve the shoreline that is here now. We are now drawing up drafts assessment documents and we would like to hear the residents' voice on this job. Ron from VMRC spoke on the blue crab fishery-Our task is to define various locations where we can build the sanctuaries reefs and harvest grounds for the oysters. He showed us the new construction model and he said that this is where the watermen come in to help direct us where we need to begin. Where are the good grounds, what kind of wave action is going on in section 5, etc. To that question, the floor was opened and Bill Bailey spoke regarding the areas he thought would not work or would work. Mike Clair also spoke about the Northend point and what you could not do or what would help. Don Porter said Anything to help erosion and bring back the Oysters would be a win, win. He said there are more shells in Beasley Bay with no oysters. Ron spoke on the stipulation of this money being granted. We have to justify to congress that this project is a viable one and the town will profit. Mike Clair said they need a waterman to go with them to show them what and where the best



locations and the worst locations are. Denise Chance asked where does Virginia rate as far as the catch rate annually? Ron stating it is still not where we want it, but it is getting better. Patricia Ahern stated that crabs like oyster reefs and blue crabs eat the deceased oysters. Ron stated that some people may or may not want the reefs close to their property and offshore. Bo said approximately 150 lunar feet and bay side oysters prefer deep water as Seaside oysters do not like to be covered, so they like to be uncovered. Mike Clair said build sand along the shoreline like around Stickley's property. How will you stop that? Ron stated that we will continue to work this out. We are only in the beginning stages, and we believe this will be a benefit to the waterman as well as the shoreline.

MK Miles asks a question, Tangier versus Saxis—we do not get any money, they get the majority. Their work is all about the Pocomoke sound and Tangier is a part of that. We are considered Chesapeake Bay, and Maryland (Pocomoke sound) are biased to them. He told them he had worked for the Army Corp of Engineers for many years, and he may be able to help on this project. Barry McCready stated that whatever you build, it needs to be able to withstand those Northwest winds.

Closed Floor

Darrell motioned to pay the bills.

Wayne seconded the motion.

Unanimously passed.

Denise motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Wayne seconded the motion.

Unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

**Mariann Miller
Saxis Town Clerk**