

March 1, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Oxford Board of Port Wardens was called to order by the chairman, Thomas Campbell, on Thursday, March 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Oxford Community Services Building.

Other board members in attendance were Harwood "Woody" Martin and Larry Murray.

The minutes of the meeting of February 1, 2007 were approved and accepted as distributed.

Ian Scott, property owner of 213 South Street, met with the board to find out the procedure he would have to take in order to deepen a slip at his dock. Mr. Campbell stated he would need to secure a maintenance permit with the town and suggested that Mr. Scott work with an engineering service because he would also need to get approval permits with the Department of Natural Resources and Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Campbell added that once Mr. Scott secures his various permits they would be good for up to three years and that applying for an extension, if necessary, is relatively easy.

Mr. Campbell read aloud a letter from Lane Engineering on behalf of James Turrell, prospective property owner of 308 Tilghman Street. The letter informed the commission that Mr. Turrell has submitted an application to the Maryland Department of the Environment to obtain authorization to perform work in tidal wetlands involving the construction of 218' of replacement bulkhead, the installation of 4 mooring piles, construction of a 30' stone groin and the dredging of 760 cubic yards of material. Though the board understood what Mr. Turrell wanted to do, they were concerned that it might cause a problem. In particular, the board wanted to know the purpose of the groins and questioned the scale of the drawing provided in the letter. Mr. Campbell noted that an old drawing of the property was being used which may have more structures represented than what is actually there today. Mr. Campbell stated he would like more information supporting the purpose and/or need for the groin. It was agreed by the board members present that a letter should be sent out by the town office to Lane Engineering and the Department of the Environment stating that the board feels there is going to be a concern with the setback of the bulkheading of the slips in relationship to the channel and that they suspect the Corps of Engineers may also have similar issues, along with the purpose of the proposed stone groin.

Mr. Campbell next read aloud a letter from C.E. Coffield, property owner of 210 South Morris Street, informing the board that he has a wooden bulkhead that is probably more than thirty years old in need of repairs. Several holes and cracks have developed in the wood causing erosion and depressions in the soil behind and adjacent to the bulkhead. Mr. Coffield notified the board in his letter that he plans to

repair the bulkhead in order to stop the current erosion while he and his wife are studying a project to obtain permits and replacing the bulkhead with a new one. Mr. Campbell noted that Mr. Coffield has discussed this with the board at a past meeting and that the board had recommended to Mr. Coffield that he send the board a letter notifying the town what his plans were. The board saw no problems with Mr. Coffield's request.

The application of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Fay, property owners of 211 N. Morris Street, was then discussed regarding their request to install one mooring buoy. Mr. Campbell stated that he had contacted the town attorney, David Thompson, to get some feedback on how to respond to this request since the town has not yet developed a process in which they can handle mooring requests in an organized fashion. Currently the board cannot deny mooring buoy requests. Mr. Murray suggested writing to the Fays and explaining to them that the board thought it was not a good idea to put a mooring out there, but if they insist on it, they should comply with the Maryland requirement that it be a lighted mooring buoy because that area is so heavily traveled at night. Mr. Campbell suggested that coordinates for the mooring be provided. Mr. Martin summarized by stating that the board is OK with what the Fays want to do but that they are looking at moorings as a problem and may come along next month or year and tell them they may have to take the mooring out as it is no longer acceptable. It was agreed that the board will draft a letter for the town office to send to the Fays addressing moorings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Willoughby
Assistant Clerk