

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 28, 2010

LOCATION

Commissioners Meeting was held in the meeting room of the Community Services Building on September 28, 2010. President Kearns called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

PRESENT

Commissioners present were Timothy Kearns, James Klair and Peter Dunbar. Town Attorney Sarah Eberhart was in attendance. There were approximately twenty five (25) people in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 14, 2010 were approved as distributed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Scott Delude, Public Works Superintendent, gave the Maintenance Report that consisted of the following:

1. Scott advised the Commissioners that he is working on a pay scale and evaluation program for employees. Work is being done in other towns to create this type of program and it is possible that Oxford can use a lot of their information.
2. The parking lots at Tilghman Street and the Causeway have been repainted with yellow lines marking parking spaces.
3. The fence along the Town Park and the McManus property has been repaired and the brush around the house has been removed. Oxford Lawn and Landscaping removed the undergrowth from around the house.
4. The tennis court needs new wind breakers next season. There is the choice of putting a design on the wind screen, such as the Oxford Town Seal.
5. A resident of the Strand has proposed to remove the parking curbs at the end of the Strand and put in poles with chain connecting them. Pictures of the before and after were given to the Commissioners.
6. The cracks on the tennis court have been sealed. Scott is getting prices for next year's budget to have the court sealed or recoated before deterioration starts.

The Commissioners suggested that Scott ask Parks & Recreation for suggestions regarding the design of the wind screen for the tennis court.

President Kearns stated that the waterman located next to the Tilghman Street boat ramp have questioned the condition of the dock. Scott advised that work is being done to the dock at the present time.

President Kearns questioned placing poles with chain at the end of the Strand. He commented that the post would hinder the width of the blacktop and cause problems for cars turning. David Baker was in the audience and explained that he was the one that had made this proposal to Scott as an idea. Mr. Baker stated that he was going to draw up a more detailed drawing to give to the Commissioners and would hope that this would be tabled until he provides more information. The Commissioners agreed to table this until the next town meeting.

Commissioner Dunbar questioned whether Scott had an opportunity to look at the swale in front of the Community Center. Scott advised that his department could put the culvert in and

cover this area with grass. Scott commented that any brick work, for instance for sidewalks, would have to be hired out. The culvert would cost between \$5000 and \$6000. D. Edward, State Highway Administration, gave an o.k. but said the town must coordinate with State Highways. Filling in this area would allow considerable parking.

Commissioner Klair stated that on Friday, September 24th the State filed a plan for TMDL's (175 pages) some dealing with waste water. Commissioner Klair asked if the town has received any word on their permit. Scott advised that no word has been received and the town is still working under the old permit. Commissioner Dunbar stated that there is a meeting at the Talbot County Community Center on September 30th to discuss a watershed plan. There is also a meeting on October 12th with the State. Scott advised that if anyone wants to attend the meetings they should let him know since he must RSVP. Attorney Eberhart advised that their office will be sending someone to the meeting on the 12th.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Maxwell gave the Police Report that consisted of the following:

- One DWI (Arrested and Released Pending Trial .21%)
- One Hit and Run (Arrested and Released Pending Trial)
- One Domestic (Verbal Only)
- One Assist the Fire Department
- One Alarm
- Three Animal Complaints (abated)
- Two Assaults (Arrest Made and Person Released Pending Trial)
- One Warrant Service (Assault Case)

Chief Maxwell presented the Commissioners with a Performance Report beginning January 2010 through August 2010.

Meeting with SHA

Commissioner Dunbar stated that a meeting was held with State Highway Administration concerning problems with traffic entering town at high speeds. There is concern about the businesses and residential properties regarding traffic. SHA suggested placing taped strips in the media and designating parking areas. The strips would appear to be a structure in the road and would look like the road narrows, slowing down traffic. SHA is under budget constraints at the present. The overall effect would be to create a streetscape coming into town. Studies show that a change in the road will slow down traffic.

Oxford Fire Company

Commissioner Klair announced that a Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Oxford Fire House in November.

Grant Application Meeting

President Kearns announced that he and Commissioner Dunbar attended a grant application meeting given by Historic Trust in Salisbury at the Ward Museum.

Oxford Community Center

The Oxford Community Center has invited the Commissioners to celebrate their Kick Off Campaign for fund raising on November 6, 2010 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA – Bonnie Stevens Oxford Garden Club

Mrs. Stevens explained that the Garden Club was in attendance to discuss the location for the Blue Star Memorial and introduced Marie Davis, President of the Garden Club to speak for the Garden Club. Mrs. Davis thanked the Commissioners for having the Garden Club attend the meeting and stated that the Blue Star Memorial represented the people that have given her and others the opportunity to speak freely. Mrs. Davis requested that the Blue Star Memorial be placed in the Town Park under the tree that stands on the right side of the park with the low stone retaining wall around it.

President Kearns stated that letters have been received asking that the memorial not be put in the park. President Kearns commented that the tree that the Garden Club has requested that the memorial be placed under was not planted deep enough and should not have anything placed under it.

Commissioner Klair remarked that the comments received outweigh putting the memorial in the park. Commissioner Klair stated that Oxford needs something for servicemen and women, the issue is only not in the park. The Pincushion is a likely spot, there is already a flag in the area and the memorial would fit nicely.

Commissioner Dunbar commented that there are objections to placing the memorial in the park but there are other sites where the memorial would fit perfectly. One site is the ferrydock and another is the small park located at the Causeway. Both areas could be turned in to a wonderful setting.

Ms. Stevens stated that the Garden Club has looked at other alternative sites and decided the Town Park is the best site since families can get together and it is a safe place. The Causeway is not a good location for gatherings because of traffic and other areas do not have enough room.

Comments were given by Pat Jessup that she and her husband traveled this summer to Europe and all of the small villages and large ones as well had something in a prominent location honoring servicemen and women.

Pam Baker commented that the letters that the commissioners received may be short sited.

Nancy Wallace read a letter to the Commissioners objecting to the Blue Star Memorial being placed in the Town Park. The letter was written by Nancy.

Mrs. Davis explained that the memorial is designed in small scale and is being stored in Cambridge. The memorial needs to be moved forward. The Garden Club asked the Commissioners to give them an answer as to whether the memorial can be placed in the Town Park.

Commissioners voted on this 28th day of September 2010 as to whether the blue star memorial should be allowed to be placed in the Town Park.

No – Timothy Kearns

No – James Klair

No – Peter Dunbar

Request To Be On Agenda – Judy Shuler

Judy Shuler, master gardener, explained that homeowners in the Tred Avon watershed can get free soil tests and nutrient management plans thanks to a \$133,000 grant for non-point nutrient reduction. The grant money will go toward nitrogen reduction in the Tred Avon and Trippe Creek watersheds. Homeowners in those water sheds will get mailers with details about the master gardener Bay Wise Program. The program offers education for homeowners about how

they can protect local waters with certain landscape practices. The grant allows a free rain barrel with homeowner certification. The gardeners have plans for demonstration gardens, one at the extension office and probably one in Oxford. Ms. Shuler hopes for a demonstration rain garden at Causeway Park. Ms. Shuler announced that there are four certified rain gardens at homes on South Morris Street, South Street, Town Creek Road and Bonfield Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

President Kearns read a letter from Oxford Parks & Recreation stating that Parks & Recreation will be holding their third annual Pumpkin Walk on Saturday, October 30th. The participants will gather at St. Paul's Church at the corner of South Morris and South Street at 2:00 p.m. They will walk to the Town Hall where refreshments will be served and their costumes can be viewed.

Increase fee for Town Boat Slips

President Kearns announced that the Commissioners need to discuss the boat slips and whether the lease amounts should be raised. The new agreements were mailed out in July for a six month period. New leases will be mailed in January 2011 and a decision on the cost must be made prior to January.

PROCLAMATION

President Kearns read a Proclamation of the Commissioners of Oxford honoring the Tred Avon Yacht Club. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Tred Avon Yacht Club has served the Oxford area sailing Community for many years by encouraging youth sailing, instructing local youth sailors, and hosting and competing in youth sailing regattas throughout the Chesapeake Bay area and elsewhere,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED, on the occasion of the United States Optimist Dinghy Association Atlantic Coast Regional Championship Regatta, to be hosted by the Tred Avon Yacht Club on October 9 and 10, 2010, the Commissioners of Oxford do hereby proclaim that October 8, 9, and 10, 2010, shall be recognized as the 2010 Oxford Opti Youth Sailing Weekend.

So order this 28th day of September, 2010.

Commissioners of Oxford

Timothy B. Kearns, President

James G. Klair

Peter M. Dunbar

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Living Shoreline

Commissioner Dunbar stated that the Town Park Living Shoreline should be finished by the end of the week. Easton High School students are to help with the planting on Thursday and Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pam Baker thanked the police department and the public works department for their help in preparing for the Oxford Library Book Sale. Pam said it was very successful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss *personnel* and *two legal issues*. Those in attendance were Timothy Kearns, Commissioner, James Klair, Commissioner, Peter Dunbar, Commissioner, Patrick Maxwell, Chief of Police, Sarah Eberhart, Town Attorney and Lillian Lord, Town Clerk.

BILLS PAYABLE

The regular town meeting was reopened. The Commissioners went to Bills Payable.

Commissioner Dunbar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Klair seconded motion.

Aye – Timothy Kearns

Aye – James Klair

Aye – Peter Dunbar

Respectfully submitted

Lillian Lord
Town Clerk