

Baycliff Civic League

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Baycliff Civic League was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on October 19, 2016 at Alanton Elementary School by President, Steve Zahn.

Present

Board members present were Steve Zahn, Brian Baker, Pat Genzler, Christine Westendorf, and Lisa Rosenfeld. There were 9 additional residents and 1 guest in attendance.

Pleasure House Oysters Presentation – Chris (VB Fire Captain) and Beverly Ludford

- Chris and his mom, Beverly, gave a brief presentation of their family business' history, mission, and philosophy. They stressed the following points:
 1. To make Lynnhaven River a better place, water quality is a priority – don't want to remove all the wild oysters as they are the primary water cleaners; each oyster filters 50 gallons of water/day; believe in providing a fresh, local product
 2. Wish to be good neighbors, make every effort to speak to community members and tourists on the water
 3. Make a small profit while providing a product that is unbelievably delicious
- Chris then opened the floor to questions from residents where he responded to concerns and some misinformation. Of note:
 - Chris has permission to speak for 8 of the 11 – 12 oyster farmers on the river.
 - Of the oyster farmers on the Lynnhaven, most share Pleasure House Oysters' philosophy. Half of these farmers derive all of their income from the river and the other half have other income sources. A few of these farmers use pressure washing equipment to clean their cages and when asked, have agreed to limit use of this equipment during weekday hours to prevent noise pollution on weekends.
 - Oyster farmers may not restrict access to private property with their equipment. Any homeowner who finds their access impeded should call the VMRC Legal Dispatch Hotline at (800) 541-4646.
 - Oyster cages must not be over 12" from the river bottom. They are exposed at low tide which is good for the health and growth of the oysters. There is no minimum distance from private homes that oyster cages are required to be placed.
 - Notification to homeowners regarding oyster leases is currently cumbersome and not direct. The oyster industry has proposed legislation to improve the notification process.
 - An oyster farmer may sell his/her lease to anyone at any time and there is nothing in place to limit the proliferation of additional cages. However, the make-up of the Lynnhaven River and the type of work involved in oystering should prevent an unacceptable amount of oyster farming.

- Although oyster cages may be a navigation hazard, most are placed in unnavigable waters as access to deeper water is not practical for oyster farming. White PVC survey markers can also be a hazard, but oyster farmers are encouraged to replace these with buoys as soon as the survey has been completed.
- Oyster farmers who hold leases in an area of proposed dredging can hold up the dredging process. Permission for dredging must be obtained from the lease holder. However, an oyster farmer must show that there is oyster farming activity in order to keep a lease. Additionally, dredging is beneficial for the oysters as the cooler/deeper waters that result from dredging promote oyster growth.
- There is a website that has posted pictures of heavy equipment and Canadian floating oyster cages that are not used for oystering in the U.S. in order to disseminate misinformation about oyster farming in the Lynnhaven.
- Linkhorn Cove stinkpot seepage is a problem and is being addressed and monitored by the city.
- Chris extended an invitation for any resident to go out on his boat for free and see what his operation entails. He can be reached on his cell phone at (757) 663-6970. His website address is: <https://pleasurehouseoysters.com>.

Prior Meeting Minutes – Lisa Rosenfeld read the minutes of the May 18, 2016 meeting.

Corresponding Secretary Report – Christine Westendorf has sent out cards to residents with new babies and deceased family members. She has also sent out reminder mailings to pay Civic League dues (80% collected to date) and to return Directory information form (41% have not responded).

Treasurer's Report – Paige O'Shaughnessy could not attend but Steve Zahn distributed the current Profit and Loss statement.

Vice Presidents' Report – Pat Genzler reported that the Dredging committee has prepared a draft agreement for individual homeowners planning on using the Civic League's dredging company's services. They are looking for comments from homeowners who will be using the agreement prior to completing the final version.

Unfinished Business – Steve Zahn reported that there is still a need for Fall Festival volunteers and Baycliff Directory ads are being worked on.

New Business – Steve Zahn

- The Baycliff circle remains too wet to complete the storm clean up. Ron Filer will turn off the sprinklers so that this may be addressed. Pam Fox is working on the entry flowers. An email was received from a resident of the Reserve reminding us not to put yard waste in the gutter. Brian Baker suggested that we need to clean farther down Mill Dam.
- There was discussion regarding the storm power outage and the spotty electrical service in Baycliff.

- The sewer repair project is doing a good job in general re-paving after work completion but the storm has set them back. An additional 14 homes have been added to the project because they are on the edge of failure. Steve will find out if the entire street will be re-paved upon project completion.
- Concrete work has been done to replace sidewalk sections in need of repair.
- Christine announced that the neighborhood holiday party will again be at the Adcock home on Sunday, December 18. There will be an Ugly Sweater theme.
- Steve will check with Rob Frazier, Safety and Improvements chair, to look into getting electrician bids to replace circle lights with LEDs.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Alanton Elementary School.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Rosenfeld
Recording Secretary