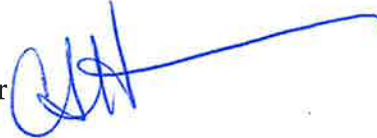


**TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE**

April 5, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager



SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for the Council Meeting of April 11, 2023

It is my pleasure to provide you with information related to the activities of the Town and my engagements during the past month:

Bear Trap Dunes Conversion to Natural Gas Project – 201 Central

I have continued to engage with both Chesapeake Utilities and our electrician that maintains our generators regarding this conversion. At time of writing I am awaiting information related to the availability of conversion parts for our generator at 201 Central. Generac has advised that they no longer support conversion kits for units such as ours. If we are unable to obtain the parts we will have two options, maintain our own propane tank for this facility or replace our generator with a new one that runs on natural gas. We will evaluate the options and advise of the best course of action.

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT)

Attended the monthly SCAT meeting with members of Council where a presentation was made by Allison Stine, the 2023 President of the Sussex County Association of Realtors.

Annexation Discussion Updates

Continued engagement with HOA representatives from Forrest Reach, Forest Landing and Lord Baltimore Landing has occurred at their request. Forest Reach has funded core sampling of their streets, Forrest Landing is sending an extensive information piece out to its property owners with facts about a possible petition to the Ocean View Town Council regarding annexation and Lord Baltimore Landing has advised after requesting a meeting that they are not currently prepared to move forward. We will continue to respond to questions and provide information, keeping Mayor and Council aware with status updates.

Tingle Street Boat Ramp/Dock Update

We have been advised that Sussex County has issued a parcel number to the Tingle Street Boat Ramp and Dock area. You will recall this section was in limbo since Kelley Estates was subdivided, coming to the Towns attention as a result of the dock being in disrepair. This hurdle that has taken well over a year and a half dealing with DNREC first and finally with the County will help to facilitate the owners engagement with residents of Kelley Estates with the intention of creating a ramp/new dock association that assumes maintenance responsibilities.

Muddy Neck Road and Double Bridges Road Pavement and Rehab Project

We were notified last week that DelDOT plans to begin the Muddy Neck Road and Double Bridges Road rehabilitation project in “the summer of 2023”. The work will be performed during the day between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and the expected duration is 120 calendar days. We are reviewing the Town Agreement sent to us and have identified several areas of concern that have been shared with DelDOT. We will sign the agreement when it meets the requirements we expect or report back to Council with information. Needless to say travel along Muddy Neck will be impacted during the construction during a peak time.

Coastal Clean-Up

The Quiet Resorts Chamber of Commerce has advised they will hold the Coastal Clean-UP on April 22. A flyer about the event is attached and available here at the meeting. We have confirmed the availability of the John West Park grass parking area for a roll-off to be placed to ensure ease of access for our community to participating as free disposal will be available. Persons interested in participating in the clean up effort along roadways and possibly then Assawoman Trail can sign up at TheQuietResorts.Com.

DART Transit Survey

Dart has launched a statewide survey as part of its *Dart Reimagined* transit study. Since our area is severely underserved by DART participation in the survey by members of the Ocean View community is of great importance. We get complaints about traffic often, so now is the time to provide feedback. You can participate in the survey by visiting DartFirstState.Com. Paper surveys are also available and we have some at the back of the Council Chamber. The deadline to participate and share your thoughts is Friday, April 21, 2023! We pushed information out to the HOA's that we have information for, churches, on Facebook, our website and on OVTv!

Mediacom

During our Budget Workshop and at the Candidates' Night, as well as some of the local Facebook pages, the question of our franchise agreement with Mediacom continues to be brought up. Often with persons making inaccurate assumptions or sharing inaccurate information. For what seems like the 100th time I am sharing that there is NO limit to the number of Cable Franchise agreements the Town can enter. The franchise only covers cable tv. Other providers may request a Cable franchise with the Town at any time. Many towns and cities have more than one. Of course we know, cable providers also provide internet. So right now, Mediacom is the only provider in our area, but only because no others have decided to make the investment to be here. We have been talking with Comcast since 2019, and they have suggested they will offer residential service to Ocean View in the future but have not committed to when yet. This information is available in more detail on our website and I have copies of my March 2023 update here for anyone to pick up.

Thank You – Board of Elections!

I wanted to thank the Town's Board of Elections and the Town Clerk Donna Schwartz who serves as the liaison to the Board for their engagement leading up to the recent Town Election, including attendance at a Special Mtg of the BOE that became necessary, Candidates' Night and on the day of the Elections. Your service to our community is greatly appreciated. For obvious reasons due to the late withdrawal from the ballot of one candidate, 3 days before the election, our Town Clerk

had her hands full communicating with the State Election Board, responding to the local newspaper, obtaining a state required/notorized withdrawal from the candidate that withdrew and keeping our Legal Counsel apprised while still completing her regular duties.

White Creek Dredging Project

There has been a good deal of confusion and frustration with DNREC's White Creek Dredging project in recent weeks. We were asked to engage with Senator Hocker and Representative Gray regarding the project being halted vs. being given extra time to be completed while the project was already mobilized. This engagement revealed that both representatives were working tirelessly to see the project extended so that it could be completed, with advisement that the extension was also supported by Governor Carney. Unfortunately, DNREC did not provide the extension and the demobilization began the week of April 3rd. You may be aware that DNREC provided the Town no advance notice of the project's impact on areas of Town, including transportation of materials on large tractor trailers, along narrow roadways. Concerns from Town residents were fielded and DNREC was made aware as well as provided photos of the areas damaged during the initial mobilization. I share some below with you now.

We have been told that the tentative plan, as we understand it, includes a re-mobilization in the fall. Please be advised that we have made DNREC aware that the large trucks and materials are not permitted to again travel the Town roadways, and that they should make plans to barge in from Holts Landing. Additionally, we have again requested information regarding repairs that have yet to be made.

The below photo shows the huge mobilization associated with this project, and why so many are frustrated that DNREC didn't see fit to add a few weeks to the contract to get this job done.

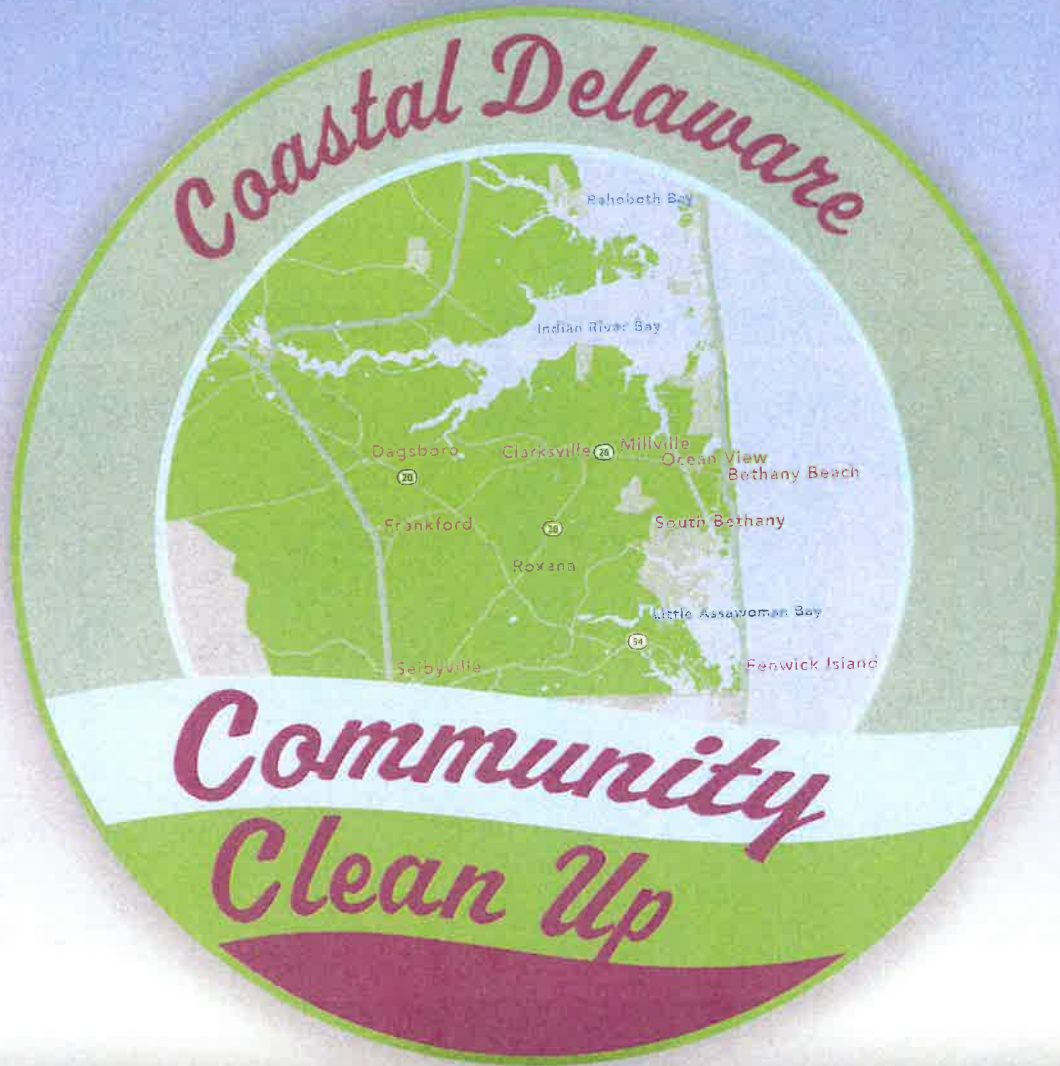




I have participated in the following meetings and calls:

- Historic Village in Ocean View Board Meeting
- DFIT Workers Comp Trustee Meeting
- March 14th Council Meeting
- Met with Principal Webb to review the SRO program
- Delivered Meals on Wheels with Mayor Reddington – for the Cheer Center March effort to raise awareness
- Made a presentation about the Berzins Property Development to Sussex County Council
- Met with/had calls with various groups regarding the Spring Fling event on May 6th.
- Sat in on the Board Of Elections special meeting to observe.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND FROM 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM



KEEP THE QUIET RESORTS BEAUTIFUL!

Clean up your neighborhood, street, or be assigned to an area in need. Free disposal is available. Pick up supplies from designated locations. Questions? Call (302) 539-2100

SIGN UP AT THEQUIETRESORTS.COM



