

**COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 10, 2022**

The Commissioners Meeting was held in person at 101 Market Street on May 10, 2022. Virtual participation was also available. This information was posted on the town bulletin board and the town website. President Gordon Fronk called the meeting to order at 6 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Fronk requested a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine.

**PRESENT**

Attending the meeting were Commission President Gordon Fronk, Commissioner Brian Wells, Commissioner Jaramillo, and Town Manager Cheryl Lewis. Public Works WW Superintendent Matt Ozman and Police Chief Patrick Maxwell attended virtually. Citizens in attendance included, Friederikos Franke, Capt Tom Bixler, Tom Costigan, Ian Fleming, Ray Stevens, John Pepe, Tim Kearns, Dick Deerin, and Philip Logan, Barbara Ranson, Philip Dietz, and Eva Smorzaniuk, along with a few virtual participants.

Prior to the meeting the Commissioners held a work shop to discuss potential locations for the proposed Middle Passage signage as presented by Philip Logan on behalf of Barbara Paca and Waters Edge Museum. Capt Tom Bixler, Tom Costigan, Ian Fleming, Ray Stevens, John Pepe, Tim Kearns, Dick Deerin, and Philip Logan were in attendance at the workshop. A site visit had also taken place prior to the discussion. Most areas did present safety concerns and several of the areas would present concerns from the State due to proximity to the water and/or State ownership/funding.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Wells motioned to approve the May 10, 2022 meeting minutes, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Matt Ozman presented his Public Works report. On-site training has been conducted for hazardous communication, fall protection, Lockout tagout, and equipment training. The policies have been updated and are now in affect so all employees in the Public Works Department have been trained. Several deck boards have been replaced at the Tilghman dock and the Creamery deck. Public works investigated a sink hole next to the tennis court parking area and found a small hole in top of a drainpipe; a repair kit has been ordered and will be installed in the coming weeks. Public Works has been doing grass and grading repairs in soccer field in bare areas. Public Works has been doing general maintenance of parks and public works building with painting of fences, shop office, and light posts in town park. Town hall HVAC unit was inspected and we discovered a failed blower fan motor, which has been replaced by Comfort Plus Services. Paving has started on and around the South Morris area. So far Riverview, South Morris from pin cushion to the NOAA lab, and JL Thompson have all been completed, along with the parking areas next to the Public Works shop, Causeway Dock parking, and Basketball court parking area. The pavers have several patches and two small streets remaining.

The Commissioners noted the paving looked very good.

#### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Maxwell reported that stopping and parking at the Strand has become an issue, as it has in past seasons, monitoring and enforcement will continue. Business checks and suspicious persons checks continue. There have been no issues with the ongoing paving of town streets.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Following the previously held Workshop regarding the Middle Passage Marker signage at the Strand waterfront, Commission President Fronk opened Commissioner discussion. Commissioner Jaramillo stated that he supports the project and realizes the importance of it and appreciated the participants and the opportunity to have open discussion in a workshop. Fronk remarked that a year ago the town had received a request for consideration of the placement of a sign in an area near the Ferry Dock and had been provided with a sample of a two-sided sign, similar to what is currently located at the Waters Edge Museum, and that was the sign that the Commissioners were considering in the Spring. More recently the idea of a few lower profile smaller signs with benches facing them had been proposed to the Commissioners. Fronk stated that he felt the conversation now exceeds the simple placement of a sign, currently involving discussion of multiple locations, and as Philip Logan described at the workshop, a sanctuary, which is different than the placement of a sign, and as such, although it would be nice to say a location had been determined, this project is going to require significant public input. Fronk stated the placement of signage of this importance deserves public input, and is not something he is comfortable deciding as just a commissioner. Commissioners Jaramillo and Wells agreed that they were also not ready to make a decision at this time, understanding the public participation is necessary.

Fronk announced that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2203 - FY 2022 General/Enterprise Budget Amendment, Ordinance 2204 - FY 2023 General/Enterprise Budget and Tax Rate, and Ordinance 2205 - FY 2023 Water and Sewer Rates would be held on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the regular 6 pm meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None presented.

#### **ATTORNEY**

#### **TOWN MANAGER**

Lewis stated that she had spoken with Barbara Paca earlier in the day and that she wanted the Commissioners to be aware that Waters Edge would be the location of the Middle Passage celebration on July 4, 2022 and she was not anticipating any need to close Mill Street at this time.

Lewis also noted that there had been extremely high tides this week and that residents should check the Town's Facebook page for updates over the next few days, as it appears the high tides in combination with the winds could continue the tidal issues. She indicated that Public Works was monitoring conditions and doing everything they could to reduce impacts to residents.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

No further presented.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Barbara Ranson requested the street directional signage throughout town be addressed as they are in need of replacement. Philip Logan asked how the Commissioners intended to invite public participation. President Fronk stated that it was yet to be determined, and a little early in the process, but he does anticipate requesting public participation once there were a few more parameters determined in order for the public to have something to review. Tim Kearns commented on the process involved when the Blue Star Memorial (which is a Highway memorial sign) was installed, stating the Commissioners did make the determination on the location, but those proposing the sign requested the Town Park, which is where it ended up going after numerous public meetings on the topic.

Hearing no further business Commissioner Wells motioned to close the meeting, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motion, and the meeting was closed at approximately 7:15pm.

Cheryl Lewis, Town Manager