

**COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 11, 2023**

The Commissioners Meeting was held in the Oxford Commissioners meeting room on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Commissioner Tom Costigan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Attending the meeting were Commissioner Tom Costigan, Commissioner Susan Delean-Botkin, Commissioner Elect Katrina Greer, WW Supervisor Matt Ozman, Chief Eric Kellner, Town Manager Cheryl Lewis, and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan. Approximately 100 people were in attendance and another 20 virtually.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Delean-Botkin motioned to approve the minutes of June 27, 2023 as distributed, Commissioner Tom Costigan seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Talbot County Clerk of the Court Kathi Duvall issued the Oath of Office to Commissioner Elect Katrina Greer.

Commissioner Delean-Botkin nominated Tom Costigan to serve as the President of the Commissioners. Commissioner Greer seconded the motion, stated she would be abstaining and read the following statement: "The opportunity for citizens to vote is fundamental to our democracy. The Commissioners should have respected the wishes of the voters and waited until the Charter Amendment election vs appointment next week. There is nothing in the Charter that would have required them to act on June 27, 2023. Following the wishes of the voters builds trust in government and that is why I am abstaining." Commissioner Costigan called for a vote, Commissioners Delean-Botkin and Costigan voted in favor of Costigan for President. Commissioner Greer abstained.

In response to appointment by the Election Board Chair Pam Baker, Phyllis Rambo was issued the Oath of Office as an Election Clerk by Commission President Costigan.

It was noted that previously appointed Election Supervisor Eva Smorzaniuk would be issued her Oath of Office for the position prior to the upcoming Election.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Supervisor Ozman presented his report. Public works responded to one water leak and found a bad rubber washer inside of meter pit, repaired it and the meter was placed back in service. Public works was out on July 3rd and worked on getting things prepared for fireworks. Two public works employees were on duty before, during, and after the fireworks for clean-up and trash detail. Public works assisted Oxford Police with traffic control barriers and cones, along with parking detail. Public works employees and Oxford Police along with Talbot County Sheriff's Department sprang into action after the severe storm rolled through to assist in debris clean up and fixing traffic control barriers. There was one after hours call for the wastewater plant for a seal failure on a pump at the main lift station, which turned out to be a failed relay. A new relay has been ordered and is awaiting delivery. The pump was checked and is functional and can be put into service in an emergency until the relay is replaced. A new dead-end sign has been installed on Bonfield Avenue. The boat trailer parking signs have been repainted at the Tilghman Street boat ramp. There have been two backhoe break downs. One with a busted hydraulic line that has since been fixed and is back in service. The other backhoe has a radiator issue, the service tech has been out to trouble shoot, confirm parts and will be back this week to complete the repair.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Kellner presented his report of call, attached to this report. Chief stated the Brandon Bobbick, the new police officer had been issued his Oath of Office on June 30, 2023 so that he could start his 80 hours of field training and could work the holiday. A more formal ceremony is anticipated at the next regular meeting. Chief explained the mobile speed sign had been deployed on Tilghman following speeding complaints. The resulting report demonstrated that of the 1400 vehicles passing the sign, 25 vehicles were recorded between 26 and 30 mph, and no vehicles going over were found going over 30 mph. Traffic monitoring for speeding continues on Tilghman and the Strand, along with watching for vehicles running the stop sign at Pier St and S Morris. Kellner echoed Ozman's comments regarding the Fireworks and thanked PW for their efforts. Kellner noted recent officer training, efforts on the townhouse, and pedestrian calming efforts in front of Town Park. Kellner thanked Lt. Phillips for his actions on the recent arson threat received by a local business, with the swift location and arrest of the suspect. Kellner offered congratulations to the new commissioners.

**FIRE COMPANY**

Tim Kearns gave an update from the Fire Company. Since June 27, 2023 there were 14 fire calls, 7 first due response area and 7 mutual aid, 2 of which were working fires; 5 medical calls, 83 member responses, 59 hours

worked, and a crew assisted at the fireworks. 173 people attended the last breakfast and the next will be on August 13, 2023. The Auxiliary will be holding a Children's Carnival at Dugout Memorial Park on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Costigan stated that at the last meeting the Commissioners approved an emergency declaration that authorized the Town Manager to hire a contractor to install safety enhancements on Morris Street that included curbing, sidewalks, and a crosswalk. Since that time, after careful consideration and after receiving constructed comments from residents, Costigan instructed the Town Manager to hit the pause button on the expenditure. Costigan had worked with Public Works and Chief Kellner to install a no parking zone, with a painted curb and orange cones, to create a designated area for pedestrian crossing. In addition, the town has been in contact with SHA to develop a permanent solution and he hopes the town will hear from them in the near future. At this time, he was proposing that the town wait until contact has been made with SHA before taking any further action. Commission Greer motioned to reconsider the emergency procurement process on the grounds that it was not an emergency, we have known about the lease for close to two years, it conflates a crosswalk and sidewalk, the sidewalk in front of the Methodist Church is not the responsibility of the town, it is the responsibility of that owner, and it does not meet the Charter requirement of being in writing before the vote. Commissioner Delean-Botkin replied that having been here July 1, 2019 and having participated in the holding and counseling of women after one of our members was struck down by a speeding driver, and knowing that the town has since that time been working with SHA, with reduction of speeds entering town, with speed reading signs notifying drivers to slow down, with the installation of the speed tick marks notifying drivers they are entering a town, she is sensitive to the need. She said she has attended meetings regarding the safety issues, is aware the Town has been working with SHA, and as recently as this weekend had guest tell her they felt they had nearly hit a child crossing the street near the park. She stated that she does not ever want to go through an incident similar to 2019, that this is an emergent issue, it is too dangerous, and if this were your grandchild, you would understand how serious this is, and for this reason she cannot support removing the emergency procurement, but would support putting it on pause long enough to consult with SHA. Commissioner Greer stated that the SHA could have been contacted when the street was paved a year ago and said she spoke with SHA this morning. Greer said two different things were being discussed and that the sidewalk project in front of the Methodist Church is not part of an emergency procurement process. The crosswalk and the ADA ramps could be considered an emergency, but it still needs to be in writing before a vote, and lastly there has been speeding on the Strand of 50 and 60 mph and that is similar to what happened in 2019 and that is a separate problem as well. Greer feels there needs to be a comprehensive look at pedestrian and bike safety, not just the area in front of the park, and not with a knee jerk response, they should be looking at saving time and money for the town and for that reason should suspend the emergency procurement. She agreed with tabling the subject for now and reconsidering it in two weeks.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Costigan proposed introduction of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD TO ADOPT AN AMENDED GROWTH TIER MAP FOR THE TOWN OF OXFORD WHICH COMPORTS WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ACT OF 2012, adding that the intent was not to vote on the resolution, but to approve introduction. Manager Lewis provided the history behind the State Tier Map legislation requiring adoption of a Tier Map, stating that the Town's adopted 2012 Tier Map was not a component of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, but would be included in the Updated Comprehensive Plan that the Planning Commission is currently working on. Lewis briefly explained Water and Sewer Comprehensive Planning, which is the responsibility of the County, who is currently reviewing and proposing Tier Maps for the individual jurisdictions. For this reason, the Planning Commission took up the review of the Tier Map at the beginning of their process in order to determine the town's future growth desires prior to developing the remaining components of the Comprehensive Plan and to be able to respond to the County's request regarding an Oxford Tier Map. The Planning Commission was recommending the map option presented with this resolution following numerous Planning workshops, which included an Open House, where public comments were solicited, with a large majority of comments supporting Option 4, the map that has been presented here. Lewis stated the Tier Map has been provided to the Maryland Department of Planning for their comments, as required by law, and although there has been email correspondence regarding historic annexations, a comment letter regarding the growth area found on the tier map has not been provided yet. Once MDP comments have been received, the Resolution would be eligible for consideration of adoption. Lewis requested consideration of a vote to introduce allowing for the posting of the resolution and map online for public review. Commission Greer motioned to introduce Resolution 2307 as presented, Commissioner Delean-Botkin seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

### **LETTERS AND REQUEST**

The OBA requested consideration of the town's annual support for Plein Air Paint Oxford. Lewis stated the support was considered in the FY 2023 Budget under the miscellaneous donation line and she had prepared a check awaiting Commissioner approval. President Costigan motion to approve the support, Commissioner Delean-Botkin seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

The Oxford Library requested closing of the street for the annual Fall Oxford Book Sale on September 30, with a rain date of October 1, 2023. Commission Delean-Botkin motioned to approve the street closing for the event, Commissioner Greer seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Greer requested approval of a Letter of Support for a grant application to the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program that was being submitted by Preservation Green on behalf the Waters United Methodist Church, requesting \$239,993 to provide various improvements to the property. All Commissioners were in favor of providing the letter and support for the project.

President Costigan stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to hold a movie night on August 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of August 26, 2023 at Dugout Memorial Park to be sponsored by a local business. All Commissioners were in favor.

#### **TOWN MANAGER**

Lewis stated the request of the Commissioners to have Tim Kearns fill out the remainder of Kim Kearns' term on the Talbot County Parks and Recreation Board had been approved by the county. Lewis stated that Susan Delean-Botkin had provided notice of her resignation from the Board of Appeals following her appointment to Commissioner. Lewis noted that the staff was currently interviewing interested residents for open board positions and would be providing the information on all applicants to the Commissioners in the future. Commissioner Greer expressed her interest in interviewing the candidates prior to appointments.

Considering the addition of two new Commissioners, Lewis provided a spreadsheet summary of the past and current grant projects, identifying each project since 2012, along with awarded amounts, dates and results of RFP's, awarded contractors, funding splits and final disposition of grant funds, attached here. Lewis verbally detailed all projects identified on the list, including the upcoming Water System Improvement Project. Commissioner Greer requested the engineering report for the new well as she felt that 4 million dollars was a large contract for a well. Lewis explained that the first phase of just under 5 million was not just for a well, it included multiple improvements to the Water System, including a new metering system, well testing, and either a new well or improvements to the existing water treatment system, along with water tower improvements including a Scada system. Following discussion of the project, further information will be provided.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Informational Meeting to Discuss the Charter Amendment – July 14, 2023 at 6 pm at the OCC, Oxford Fire Company Kids Carnival July 15, 2023 - 11 am to 2 pm, Paint Oxford July 16, 2023 – exhibit and sale at OCC at 5 pm, Charter Amendment Referendum Election – July 18, 2023 from 8 am to 8 pm, August Town Talk – Current Resilience Efforts and Grant Projects – Date TBD

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Delean-Botkin welcome the new commissioner and was pleased with the attendance, stating she looked forward to hearing comments as we move forward. Commissioner Greer thanked everyone for attending and participating.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Letters received from Cathy Bitter and Barbara Paca were read aloud, attached here. Kelly Greenhawk inquired as to how the town was coming along with a new audio video system. Lewis apologized for not giving an update, stating that the acquisition was approved at the previous meeting, the wiring was to take place soon, and it was hoped the system would be ready by the August meeting. The town will be using Town Hall Streams, an online platform, with a link provided on the website for live streaming and for watching archived meetings. Nick Papon expressed his concern regarding the recent Commissioner appointment and his disappointment in what he thinks is a lack of interest and concern over the voter's thoughts, and would have preferred the decision have been deferred until after the election. Jane McCarthy asked what happens to all the money the town gets in grants. Lewis stated the town does not get a wind fall of money from grants; grant funds are reimbursed as the money is spent by the town on the individual projects. Barbara Ranson wanted to bring to the Commissioner's attention that the parking issue is bigger than just Morris Street with the suggestion that some steps be taken to look at the situation as a whole.

With no further business, Commissioner Delean-Botkin motion to adjourn the regular meeting, Commissioner Greer seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Lewis, Town Manager



**Oxford Police Department**  
**101 Market Street**  
**P.O. Box 339**  
**Oxford, Maryland 21654**  
**“Maryland’s First Port”**

*Eric M. Kellner, Chief of Police*

**Reporting Period: 6/26/23 – 7/9/23**

<b>REPORTS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Theft	0	5	Drug Arrests	0	0
Animal Complaint	0	2	DUI Arrests	0	0
Harassment	1	3	On-View Arrests	0	0
Fraud / ID Theft	0	1	Warrant Arrests	1	1
Assault	0	1	Criminal Summons	0	1
Domestic	0	1	Juvenile Referrals	0	1
Accident Report	0	2	Other Arrests	0	0
Suspicious Conditions	1	4	<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Found/Lost Property	2	13			
Other	1	4			
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>			
<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>COMMUNITY POLICING</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Alarm	1	13	Property Checks	46	595
Animal Complaints	3	18	Special Events	1	13
Check Welfare	0	2	Foot Patrol	2	48
Suspicious Condition	2	7	Bike Patrol	1	17
911 – Hang-up	0	1			
Trespassing	1	3	<b>ASSISTS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Liquor Law Violation	0	1	Other PD	0	5
Noise Complaint	0	1	Fire/EMS	1	16
Parking Violation	4	17	Other Agency	0	0
Suspicious Person	2	5			
Suspicious Vehicle	0	5	<b>ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Verbal Dispute	0	2	Parking Citations	6	12
Found Property	2	12	Traffic Stops	12	86
Motor Vehicle Collision	0	5	Traffic Citations	0	1
Traffic Complaint	2	8	Traffic Warnings	13	87
Harassment	1	3	PC Searches	0	0
Rogue and Vagabond	0	4	Criminal Citations	0	0
Misc. Calls	9	26	Civil Citations	0	0
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>134</b>			
<b>TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Speeding	6	65	Cell Phone Violation	0	2
Stop Sign	5	9	Other Violation	2	7
Driving w/o License	0	2	Equipment Violation	0	4

YEAR	GRANT	TOTAL GRANT AWARDED	TOTAL LOAN AWARDED	PROJECT	REQUEST FOR BIDS	AWARDED CONTRACTOR	CONTRACTOR INVOICES	PURCHASES	TOWN MATCH	REIMBURSEMENT	FORFEITED GRANT DOLLARS
2012	Prior Accrued Funds			Morris Street F-Dock	10/17/2012	Somerset Paving & Marine Inc. GMB engineering/adv cost/misc	\$ 222,887.82 \$ 7,297.50			\$ 230,185.32	
2013	Prior Accrued Funds	\$ 126,088.00									
2013	LG-2055A-13 ?	\$ 50,000.00									
2014	LG-2055B-14A	\$ 25,000.00									
2015	LG-2055C-15	\$ 50,000.00									
2016	LG-2055D-16	\$ 50,000.00									
2016	LG-2055D-16 ADD ON	\$ 12,000.00									
2017	LG-2055E-17	\$ 50,000.00		Tilghman St Boat Ramp	5/16/2014	Murtech, Inc.	\$ 333,174.90	\$ 1,372.62			
2018	LG-2055F-18	\$ 25,000.00				GMB engineering /adv cost	\$ 45,200.00			\$ 379,747.52	\$ 8,340.48
2019	LG-2055G-19	\$ 50,000.00		Waterway Improvements / Floating				\$ 859.69		\$	
2020	LG-2055H-20	\$ 25,000.00		Dock							
2016	DHCD SRP-CL-2016-00266	\$ 50,000.00		Façade Grants	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000.00			\$ 50,000.00	
2017	DHCD SRP-CL-2017-00409	\$ 50,000.00		Façade/Interior	n/a	n/a	\$ 50,000.00	Remaining:		\$ 50,000.00	
2020	DHCD SRP-CL-2020-00179	\$ 40,000.00		Façade/Interior	n/a	n/a	\$ 25,620.00	\$ 14,380.00		\$ 40,000.00	
2016	DHCD SRP-SDSGIF-2016-00263	\$ 300,000.00		MEWS Acquisition	n/a	n/a	\$ 502,885.62	\$ 202,885.62	\$ 202,885.62	\$ 300,000.00	
2016	DHCD SRP-SDF-2017-00370	\$ 75,000.00		MEWS Design/Stabilization	11/30/2016	Voith Mactavish/Victor MacSorley	\$ 75,000.00			\$ 75,000.00	
2019	DHCD SRP-SDF-2019-00134	\$ 175,000.00		Mews Rehabilitation	12/19/2018	Victor MacSorley	\$ 219,352.00		\$ 44,352.00	\$ 175,000.00	
2016	MSEC 2015-15-420s1	\$ 25,000.00		Townhall HVAC	5/24/2016	Comfort Plus	\$ 66,760.00		\$ 41,760.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
2015	CB TRUST 13419	\$ 40,000.00		Causeway Bioretention Design	2/19/2016	Rauch Inc.	\$ 33,097.00	\$ 22,362.00	\$ 15,459.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
2017	DNR 14-18-2323 TRF 15	\$ 650,000.00		Causeway Bioretention Construction	2/19/2018	Barkers Landing	\$ 650,657.78		\$ 657.78	\$ 650,000.00	\$ -
2016	DNR 14-16-2108 CZM 165	\$ 51,000.00		Stormwater Master Plan	n/a	GMB Engineering	\$ 56,500.00		\$ 5,500.00	\$ 51,000.00	
2017	DNR 14-18-2360 CZM 153	\$ 25,000.00		Community Rating System Application	Agreement	Maryland Environmental Services	\$ 19,888.44	\$ 1,150.60		\$ 21,039.04	\$ 3,960.96
2016	MDE	\$ 20,000.00		Historic Commercial Plan	9/30/2015	Jakubiak	\$ 39,850.00		\$ 19,925.00	\$ 19,925.00	\$ 75.00
2016	DNR 14-17-2215 CZM 170	\$ 35,000.00		Working Waterfront Strategic Plan	1/24/2017	Lardner/Klein	\$ 35,000.00			\$ 35,000.00	\$ -
2018	CCP 6227-20-118	\$ 37,866.00		Dog Park		Brinsfield	\$ 14,695.00	\$ 23,171.00		\$ 37,866.00	
2017	CCP 6536-20-131	\$ 50,000.00		Tennis Court Rehab		American Tennis Courts	\$ 49,620.00	\$ 304.00		\$ 49,924.00	\$ 76.00
2019	CPP 6971-20-135	\$ 122,400.00		Community Central Park	10/25/2021	unresponsive	\$ 29,083.00				
2022	CPP 7431-20-139	\$ 40,000.00		Basketball/Pickleball							
2021	USDA 2021 CF VEHICLES	\$ 32,600.00		Police/Public Works	n/a	n/a	\$ 109,413.00		\$ 76,813.00	\$ 32,600.00	

YEAR	GRANT	TOTAL GRANT AWARDED	TOTAL LOAN AWARDED	PROJECT	REQUEST FOR BIDS	AWARDED CONTRACTOR	CONTRACTOR INVOICES	PURCHASES	TOWN MATCH	GRANT REIMBURSEMENT	FORFEITED GRANT DOLLARS
2021	DNR 14-22-2975 CZM	\$ 45,000.00		Oxford 2.100 Vision	4/24/2023	Preservation Green / GMB	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
2021	ARPA RECOVERY FUNDS	\$ 597,067.25		Design Build Flood Remediation	3/23/2023	GMB Engineering	\$ 13,692.80	\$ -		\$ -	
2018	DNR 14-19-2456	\$ 90,000.00		Strand Design	5/29/2019	Underwood & Assoc	\$ 94,485.80	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 89,485.80	\$ 514.20
2022	DNR 14-21-3093 CRP	\$ 900,000.00		Strand Construction	12/12/2022	Underwood & Assoc	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000.00	\$ -	
2022	14-23-4025 CBG 9001	\$ 512,574.00		Strand Construction	Above	Underwood & Assoc	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
2022	NWF IS 2207-100	\$ 1,176,921.39		Strand Construction	Above	Underwood & Assoc	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
2023	MDE FLOOD MGMT	\$ 300,000.00		Strand Construction	??		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
2017-2022	USDA MDE	\$ 4,103,000.00	\$ 2,457,000.00	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade		GMB Engineering / PACT Construction	\$ 18,347,411.00	\$ -	\$ 2,457,000.00	\$ 15,864,171.00	
		\$ 11,761,171.00							\$ 26,240.15		
	MDE	\$ 654,954.76	\$ 654,954.76	Water Main Replacement - Morris Street	2/13/2020	GMB/RK&K/Barkers Landing Excavation, LLC	\$ 1,309,909.52	\$ -	\$ 654,954.76	\$ 1,309,909.52	(MDE Grant/Loan Reimbursement)
2023	USDA	\$ 2,102,000.00	\$ 2,572,000.00	Water System Improvement Project	2/24/2023	GMB Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

\$ 24,524,642.40 \$ 5,683,954.76

June 30, 2023

Oxford Commissioner Tom Costigan  
Oxford Commissioner Susan Delean-Botkin  
Oxford Commissioner-Elect Katrina Greer  
PO Box 339  
101 Market Street  
Oxford, MD 21654

Dear Commissioners:

At the Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday June 27th, I listened with concern as our town manager, Cheryl Lewis, requested and was granted authorization from the Commissioners to use emergency funds of approximately \$60,000 to correct a mistake made by the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Following the SHA's repaving of Morris St. last year, it was immediately obvious that the white striping of the road shoulders and the yellow line in certain areas along the street were no longer in the same locations as before, appearing off-center. This was particularly noticeable along the curb in front of Town Park and The Mews.

Vehicles that could previously park comfortably within the white line of the shoulder along the curb at the park, now extend out into the street unless driven up and over the curb in order to park inside the white line. Many vehicles driving in that lane now have to cross the yellow line to avoid hitting a parked car or truck, not to mention crossing almost entirely into the opposite lane to avoid bicyclists.

This problem has become even more concerning since the opening of The Creamery at The Mews. It goes without saying that everyone has looked forward to welcoming The Creamery in their new location, and the activity it has brought to the center of town is wonderful. However, there is no question that managing pedestrian and vehicle traffic safety is of utmost importance.

For a number of reasons, I am perplexed as to why correcting a problem created by the SHA must be paid for at the time and expense of our town:

- The striping problem was created by the SHA, and was immediately evident last year. Why wasn't it corrected then?
- Based on the popularity and long lines at the Creamery's previous location, the Town had every reason to anticipate an increase in both pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the new location. The Town had ample time from last summer until now to make necessary arrangements with the SHA to correct the striping and install a crosswalk. If the State was being as uncooperative as I have heard, why did our Commissioners not do more to try to contact our representatives in Annapolis for help?
- The Town now plans to go to great effort and expense to remove not only the curb, but the grass area as well, creating more impervious coverage. As property owners in town, we are held to strict guidelines limiting impervious coverage. Why is it permissible for the Town to create more impervious coverage, when having the SHA re-stripe at least that area of Morris St. would solve the problem created by SHA, saving Town money and preserving the grass area at the same time?

- Chief Kellner has done a terrific job of trying to mitigate the issues regarding the increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic in that area. He has raised everyone's awareness of the overall need for caution, regardless of the striping and lack of crosswalk issues, and is continuing to look out for our safety.

I ask that the Commissioners first go back to the SHA and our representatives in Annapolis, and hold the SHA accountable for correcting their mistake, before using our taxpayer funds to correct this issue.

I also request that my letter be read aloud at the next Commissioners' meeting on July 11th, and be included in the meeting minutes.

Respectfully yours,

Catherine Bitter  
102-B Bonfield Ave.  
Oxford, MD 21654

Cc: Chief Eric Kellner, Oxford Police Department  
Johnny Mautz, Maryland State Senator





Barbara Paca, Ph.D., O.B.E.  
101 and 103 Mill Street, Oxford 21654

28 June, 2023

Ms. Cheryl Lewis, Lindsay Ryan, Esq., and the Commissioners of Oxford  
Oxford Town Office, Oxford, Maryland 21654 [townoffice@goeaston.net](mailto:townoffice@goeaston.net)

Dear Ms. Lewis, Mr. Ryan, and Oxford Commissioners,

This is a formal request for a copy of reports and budgets disclosing information pertaining to all grants received for the benefit of Oxford, Maryland from July 1, 2017 - July 1, 2023. This includes all state, county, and federal grants; providing details regarding full financial and budgetary disclosure, preliminary engineering reports, and projects plans.

The Town Manager's comments and those made by others about how over \$30,000,000 has been awarded in grants to Oxford made me sit down and think about how fortunate we are. With such blessings and privilege comes responsibility. As was pointed out in a recent town meeting, Oxford has many citizens who would be worthy collaborators in assisting and offering their expertise in helping to manage the multiple grants received thus far—be it in the field of science, construction, design, financial management, ethics, and communication.

I would be honored to assist with organizing the platform for this information to be made available to the public. It would be mutually beneficial to share with other taxpayers and our neighbors on the Chesapeake the valuable knowledge and achievement gained from these grants. I believe there is much to be gained by sharing with neighboring waterfront communities the results of these grants, particularly those who live in fragile and underserved rural heritage areas. For example, directly across the water is the early African American settlement of Bellevue. We share many of the same challenges, such as the impact of climate risk and the threat of gentrification. Bellevue, in particular, has had to deal with the burden of insensitive developers who have built housing that blocks views from the historic African American church to the water. We all would benefit from a dialogue around understanding the grant process and how it can aid our communities in long-term preservation and planning.

Kindly be advised that this request is made via the Public Information Act of Maryland, under the supervision of the Maryland State Attorney General's Office. I am certain that you will conform to the law and respond in a prompt and professional manner. Finally, I should be very grateful if you would please read this letter at the next Town meeting to be recorded into the Town Minutes.

Sincerely, Dr. Barbara Paca, O.B.E. [barbara@preservationgreenllc.com](mailto:barbara@preservationgreenllc.com)

cc: The Honorable Anthony G. Brown, Attorney General of Maryland  
The Honorable Serena C. McIlwain, Maryland Secretary of the Environment  
Mr. Devon Dodson, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment