



Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting Monday, March 9, 2026

1. The Regular Town Council Meeting Called to Order:

Mayor Harry Ward called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Council members in attendance were Bob Wood, Jamie Draper, and Ben Monastero; Joanne Plescia joined online. Community members in attendance are on the attached sheets.

2. Welcome and Announcements:

The Mayor advised that DNREC is going to be here with USACE to discuss beach replenishment and more specifically "easements" that will need to be signed so please join March 12 at 5:30pm at the firehall – more detail during this meeting.

3. Approval of February 9, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes:

A **Motion** was made by Jamie Draper to approve February 9, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes and seconded by Ben Monastero.

The **Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

4. Approval of March 9, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting Agenda:

A **Motion** was made by Ben Monastero to approve March 9, 2026, Town Council Meeting Agenda and seconded by Jamie Draper.

The **Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

5. Reports:

a. Pratt Coastal Consulting

Tony was pleased to advise the draft report on the Section 1-11 study should be available for public review in May of 2026. Following the town leadership meeting with the Bay Beach Association and Senator Blunt Rochester with Secretary Patterson a follow up meeting is expected in early summer to discuss security of bay beach funding. Ocean projects have been removed for this next year due to budgetary constraints.

b. Memorial Fire Company

Chief Walt advised they responded to five alarms consisting of 3 assists and 2 rural calls totaling 35 man hours and EMS has 12 transports with 7 in district. Further, the auxiliary will shortly be publishing another sale, and the fire company and auxiliary are working with town leaders to host a dinner for regional mayors and town managers on April 1st. The fire company also put the town in touch with the Magistrate's Court as they are scheduling a beach cleanup June 6th to celebrate their 60th anniversary.



- c. **Treasurer's Report** – Jamie Draper reported on the General Ledger, Grants, Profit & Loss Actual and Restricted reports (available upon request).
A **Motion** was made to approve the Treasurer's Reports pending audit or review by Ben Monastero and seconded by Bob Wood.
The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
- d. **Tax Collector's Report** – Jamie advised that most tax bills have been paid, two properties have been designated for liens as the outstanding balance has been going for too long.
- e. **Building Inspector's Report** – Ben Monastero read Bob Clendaniel's monthly report (copy attached). For any work at your house (on your land), please contact Bob Clendaniel. Permits are not unreasonably expensive and while most work won't require a permit, it's best to have a record should our town ever have an emergency and need assistance from DEMA (Delaware Emergency Management Agency).

6. Mayor & Town Council Updates:

- DNREC and USACE are holding a public information meeting here at the firehall on March 12, 2026 starting at 5:30pm. There is a zoom set up and Kathy will send the link again the day before, but we are hoping for attendance in the room to show our sincere wish for this replenishment to take place.

7. New Business:

f. Access Roads -

Harry mentioned that Sawyer Road, which we took over not long ago, has experienced what was expected since it does not have a solid foundation and he will be presenting bids for further work at the next meeting.

- g. **Job opening** – Maintenance for the pavilion and park areas, Kathy has put this in the newsletter and we've had four responses. Harry will be interviewing all and should have an update at next month's meeting.

8. Old Business:

h. Grants:

- **SLCGP (State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program)** – Jamie Draper advised we have completed the grant and she is now in the process of changing town emails over to a .gov address to improve security. We will likely also be using multi-factor authentication but she has to work out the phone number issue. Further, she created a Cybersecurity Plan which will be on the website when complete.



- **Delaware Nature Society** – Bob Wood advised the CRDS team from University of Delaware will be presenting their preliminary plan to Council next week so he hopes to have details from that at the next meeting.
- i. **FEMA/CAV (Federal Emergency Management Agency/Community Assistance Visit)** Bob Clendaniel continues to work on issues that were raised. If you have propane tanks, we are requiring they be tied down; call the office if you need assistance.
- j. **Sewer** – Bob advised he had a conversation with Davis Bowen and Friedel's representative and understands the first bid will be opened on March 25 so we are on schedule. If you have not signed up for sewer, you gain nothing, but you do lose as you still have to make the payment to the County, so you will use your septic, but continue to pay the County.
- k. **Phragmites/Hazard Mitigation Grant** – The wildfire reduction program has been a success to-date as the representative from Fish & Wildlife came to town for a drive through and was pleased with our progress. If you sign up, remember you must then stomp or mow the phragmites in the spring and through the summer to drive them back.
- l. **Seaside Envoys** – All positions have been filled. We will post all contact names with the addresses they are responsible for on the website with their email addresses for easy communication.
- m. **Slaughter Beach Sail Club** – to be on the maillist, 09sbsc@gmail.com

9. Upcoming Events:

- March 12, 2026, Wednesday - bookmobile 12:45-2:45pm firehall parking lot
- April 13, 2026 - Town Council Meeting 7pm at the firehall and on zoom
- April 22, 2026, Wednesday – bookmobile 12:45-2:45pm firehall parking lot

10. Open Forum

Resident on Beach Plum requested the Town Council get better street lighting on Beach Plum. This was followed by several residents writing that they don't want lighting on that street, and a resident from Bay Avenue advising that the lighting being used is too harsh and we should request Delmarva Power switch to warm lighting. Harry Ward suggested everyone could see how difficult this subject is – nearly impossible to get consensus – and we have tried once before but he is not going to go down that road again.

11. Adjournment:

A **Motion** was made by Ben Monastero and seconded by Jamie Draper the meeting at 7:55pm.

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.