

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS**  
**TOWN OF NORTH EAST**  
**106 S. MAIN STREET**  
**NORTH EAST, MARYLAND 21901**

January 8, 2025

The Town Meeting was called to order by Mayor Kelly Benson at 7:00 P.M. Present were Vice-Mayor Kimberly A. Davis and Commissioners Hilary Crothers-Moore. Also present were Police Chief Stephen Yates, Assistant Town Administrator Grant Handley and Town Clerk Stephanie Racine-Dean. Commissioner Catherine-Bernard and Town Administrator Melissa Cook-MacKenzie was absent from tonight's meeting.

A moment of silence was observed to give thanks to all the men and women that serve and protect us and remembering the passing of President James (Jimmy) Earl Carter.

**-APPROVAL OF MINUTES-**

Mayor Benson tabled the approval of the minutes as presented, due to the absence of Commissioner Bernard-Dutton. These minutes will be presented and approved on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

- December 11, 2024 – Executive Session Meeting
- December 11, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- December 18, 2024 - Regular Meeting

**-GUESTS-**

None

**APPOINTMENTS & OATH OF OFFICE-**

None

**-PUBLIC COMMENT-**

None

**-PUBLIC HEARING-**

None

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**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES-**

None

**-ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES-**

None

**-REPORTS-**

Mayor Benson

Mayor Benson reported he had a quiet and relaxing Christmas Holiday and New Year's with his family and friends.

Mayor Benson reported he attended the following meetings since the December 18, 2024 Town Board Meeting:

- 1.2.25 attended Corporal Dennis Wood's Retirement Ceremony at the North East Police Station
- 1.3.25 had several meetings regarding Water Craft Leases at the North East Community Park
- 1.8.25 various meetings with town staff regarding the New Year and general business items

Vice-Mayor Davis

Vice-Mayor Davis reported she attended the following meetings since the December 18, 2024 Town Board Meeting:

- 12.19.24 attended the Maryland Municipal League Dinner, Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at the Bohemia Manor Farm in Chesapeake City
- 12.22.24 visited the North East Community Park at night, to see the Martha Lewis and how beautiful the Skipjack is lit-up with lights. Returned back during the day to see the actual detail of the vessel. Both the Mayor and Vice-Mayor agreed it is a great addition to the park.
- 1.4.25 attended St. Mary Anne's Family Train Day

Commissioner Crothers-Moore

Commissioner Crothers-Moore reported she attended the following meetings since the December 18, 2024 Town Board Meeting:

- 12.19.24 participated in the Annual Residential Christmas Contest. The winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place 135 Jethro Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 71 Goldspire Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 502 South Main Street
- 1.2.25 attended Corporal Dennis Wood's Retirement Ceremony at the North East Police Station
- 1.7.25 attended the North East Planning Commission meeting

Assistant Town Administrator

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Mr. Handley entered into the record his reports since the December 18, 2024, Town Board meeting:

- Attended Corporal Dennis Wood's Retirement Ceremony at the North East Police Station.
- The North East Nature Preserve study is complete, and the committee will reconvene soon once scheduled to begin discussing next steps. In summary, the land is in fact suitable for the Preserve
- Working with the Maryland Historical Society on obtaining permission to restore the Town of North East Old Town Lock Up
- Maryland Bikeways Grant Update: A proposal for the board will be ready soon
- Front door replacement is expected soon, within the next week or so
- Police Renovation Project continues to move forward, thanks to Chief Yates
- Various camera improvements have been done around the Town of North East buildings
- Annexation meeting is today, will begin reviving the process now that all ARPA projects have been obligated
- Yellow House on Mauldin Avenue is still awaiting for a demolition permit from Maryland Department of Environment (MDE)
- Assisting the town's grant writer with various grants for MS4, Water Treatment, and the Nature Preserve

**-UNFINISHED BUSINESS-**

Lease – Skipjack Martha Lewis

Mr. Grant Handley gave an update on the Martha Lewis Skipjack. The Town's attorney, David Beste along with Karl Fockler, President of the Martha Lewis, Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy will be meeting and going over the lease agreement and make edits if necessary. Once this is complete, the lease will be forwarded to the Board for review.

**-NEW BUSINESS-**

None

**-MISCELLANEOUS-**

None

**-APPROPRIATIONS-**

None

**-BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR-**

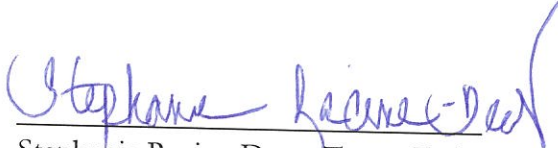
None


**-ADJOURNMENT-**

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Mayor Davis, seconded by Commissioner Crothers-Moore and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

  
Stephanie Racine-Dean, Town Clerk

  
Kelly A. Benson, Mayor