

**MINUTES  
FORT MYERS BEACH  
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE  
Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Steve Johnson, Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.  
Excused: Patty Feste, Greg Holmes and Justin Paulauskis.  
Council Liaison: Joanne Shamp

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 10, 2019 and June 12, 2019**

**MOTION:**

**VOTE:**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – \*audio started here\***

Leah (last name unknown) spoke about going to the marinas and the Coast Guard to help with education and promoting the issue of preserving wildlife in newspapers. She discussed manatee boat deaths.

**V. CURRENT ITEMS**

**A. Fertilizer Ordinance Review – Update Given to Council August 5, 2019**

Ms. Mapes reported that the DEP stated they were qualified for approval to copy the Seminole County plan to maintain the water quality in the aquatic preserve. She noted the plan was stricter than the Town's ordinance. She will forward a copy of the information to the Town Manager for further action.

**B. Reusable Bags**

Chair Veach noted that the bags were distributed to hotels, property managers, condo associations and local charities. Ms. Spalletta distributed them to people on the beach, the Matanzas Pass Preserve Board and the Mango Street Inn.

Mr. Johnson indicated that 16 – 2.5" x 4.5" logos would fit on a bag. Discussion held regarding the cost of sponsorships, source of bags and quantity. Chair Veach will contact Krusty Petes regarding the next production run and Mr. Johnson will reach out to his previous sponsors.

### C. Glyphosate Use on Fort Myers Beach

Town Attorney Herin, Jr. stated that glyphosate was registered as both a pesticide and an herbicide, but the Town was moving forward with removing all references to pesticides. Attorney Herin reach out to the Department of Agriculture for their response of the revisions. The provisions would have to remove provisions that restricted or prohibited the sale within the Town, but they could prevent the use within the Town. Town Attorney Herin, Jr. will keep MRTF apprised of the situation.

### D. MRTF Issued Certifications

1. Island Yard Certification – tabled to a future date.
2. Sea Turtle Lighting Certification and Educational Pamphlet

Discussion was held regarding turtle-friendly lighting, installing film on windows, educating property owners and renters, sea turtle-friendly stickers, hatchling disorientations and enforcing the laws.

3. Turf Grass Study – remove from agenda.

### E. Good Citizen aka the “Murphie”

Mr. Johnson nominated his neighbors, the Cajun Navy, for assistance rescuing a turtle. Chair Veach nominated a family from Kansas City whose children, Camden and Finn Hatch, filled holes on the beach to help the turtles.

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to award Camden and Finn Hatch from Kansas City for next month’s Murphie Award for filling holes to protect turtles; second by Ms. Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved that the next Murphie will be awarded to the Cajun Navy for facilitating the rescue of a Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle; second by Ms. Mapes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

## VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Mr. Johnson reported that he installed the signs and he will forward pictures.

Ms. Mapes offered to contact the DEP for ideas on how to help prevent manatee deaths. Mr. Johnson requested statistics of where the deaths occurred.

Chair Veach discussed researching the removal of iguanas and invasive lizards. Ms. Mapes will contact Sanibel regarding their policy and to research the issue further.

Ms. Mapes discussed the lack of oak trees. She described obtaining a grant to replace invasive trees with native trees. She received consensus to proceed.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Chapel by the Sea mailer offered reusable bags to seasonal residents.

Ms. Spalletta reported that the first green turtle nest hatched successfully. She will speak at the

Library regarding the sea turtle season on October 3, 2019.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT** – no public comment.

**VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Ms. Mapes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

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