

**MINUTES  
FORT MYERS BEACH  
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE**

Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Steve Johnson, Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Unexcused: Greg Holmes and Justin Paulauskis.

Staff: Chadd Chustz, Environmental Services Coordinator

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 11, 2019**

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to approve the minutes; second by MRFT Member Mapes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. VOTE ON NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**MOTION:** MRFT Member Mapes moved to keep Bill Veach as Chair; second by MRFT Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to keep Shannon Mapes as Vice Chair; second by MRFT Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

**VI. CURRENT ITEMS**

**A. Invasive Lizards**

Rick Bauer, Land Stewardship Coordinator for Lee County Conservation 2020, described invasive lizards in the area and noted that iguanas were more of a problem due to the destruction they caused. He described a Cane Toad dropbox program that could work for the Town. He noted that people could go to *ivegot1.com* to identify animals. Mr. Bauer described iguana and lizard habitats and trapping options. Mr. Bauer stated that removing monitor lizards was a high priority for FWC. Chair Veach suggested that Town employees could probably take care of removing iguanas. Mr. Bauer stated that it would benefit employees to get training on the proper trapping. Chair Veach will draft recommendations for Council.

B. Reusable Bags

MRFT Member Johnson distributed a pledge sheet for review. Discussion was held regarding how to track pledges and the Sunshine Law. Coordinator Chustz will speak to the Town Clerk.

C. Fertilizer Ordinance Review

Coordinator Chustz provided a model ordinance from the FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection). He reported that the Town Attorney was waiting for approval from two other agencies. MRFT Member Mapes discussed edits to the ordinance. She will contact the Town Attorney regarding approval issues and she will contact Bay Oaks regarding fertilizing the ball fields.

D. Glyphosate Use on Fort Myers Beach – no update.

E. MRTF Issued Certifications

1. Island Yard Certification

Chair Veach discussed a program concerning neighborhoods agreeing not to use pesticides and planting host plants and flowers for bees and butterflies.

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to recommend to Town Council that they start a pollinator neighborhood program; second by MRFT Member Mapes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

2. Sea Turtle Lighting Certification and Educational Pamphlet

MRFT Member Spalletta reported that she spoke with Eve Haverfield regarding stickers for condominium windows and sliders. Ms. Haverfield stated that Turtle Time would pay for the stickers. MRFT Member Spalletta will work on the design with Ms. Haverfield and report back.

Coordinator Chustz indicated that the Sea Turtle Conservancy offered a grant that allowed condominiums to retrofit buildings with lighting issues. He stated that the FWC would publish a new model ordinance for turtle lighting. He discussed FWC certified bulbs, urban glow and streetlights on Estero Blvd.

F. Manatees

MRTF Member Spalletta noted that manatees at Donora were at risk from boaters who refused to slow down. She suggested that boat rental companies provide a form with rules that renters had to sign. Coordinator Chustz suggested that people call FWC to report speeding boaters in manatee zones. Chair Veach discussed loosening up requirements to designate manatee zones. He suggested researching trends of manatee deaths, populations, lobbying the FWC to change their criteria for manatee zones and talking to the FWC regarding enforcement. Chair Veach

suggested that they speak to marinas regarding educating renters. MRTF Member Mapes will research enforcement at FWC. MRTF Member Johnson will visit the marinas. Chair Veach mentioned reaching out to Save the Manatee Club. Chair Veach discussed installing signs on dock pilings at residential homes at the mouth of canals.

G. MRTF Small Signs

Chair Veach noted they could remove the turtle nesting signs. MRTF Member Johnson will perform a survey of the signs.

H. Good Citizen Award aka the “Murphie”

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to nominate Rae Burns for instigating the lighting program with the Town before she left; second by MRTF Member Mapes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

MRTF Member Spalletta described a presentation conducted by Ray Judah regarding water quality issues. He discussed options and supported Option 6 as a solution to water quality problems. She offered to conduct additional research to make a recommendation to Council to support Option 6. She noted that Option 6 provided for the purchase of land south of Lake Okeechobee to install a spillway on the lake. She revealed that the money to purchase the land already existed according to Mr. Judah. MRTF Member Spalletta will assist Chair Veach with the monthly newspaper article. She questioned whether resorts could put boxes around so people could recycle plastic toys. MRTF Member Mapes noted that the toys would have to be cleaned. MRTF Member Spalletta questioned whether they could stop raking the entire beach to allow for natural renourishment. Coordinator Chustz felt that encouraging dune formation to increase island resiliency was an important conversation.

MRTF Member Mapes described growth on the mini reefs.

Chair Veach questioned whether Coordinator Chustz would contact MRTF Members Holmes and Paulauskis regarding their lack of attendance at meetings. Chair Veach questioned the status of the grant to replace invasive trees with native trees. Coordinator Chustz suggested that they approach Council to obtain permission to move forward with a grant application. Chair Veach indicated that MRTF could do the groundwork rather than Town staff. He suggested that they contact Town Manager Hernstadt before Council. He questioned whether they could meet during regular business hours. Coordinator Chustz will check the schedule.

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to investigate moving the start time for the Marine Resources Task Force meetings to as early as 3:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month; second by MRTF Member Mapes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

**IX. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

Add Discuss Water Quality Options and Tree Grant, omit Turtle Education Pamphlet and glyphosate and change Island Yard Certification to A Pollinator Neighborhood.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Adopted 12-11-19 with/without changes. Motion by VEACH  
(DATE)

Vote: 4-0 Signature: 

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