

2012 TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

The Planning Commission and the Town Council has reviewed the 2006 Comprehensive Plan and recommends the following updates for 2012:

Vision Statement

To continue to develop the Town into a well-maintained, single family community serving residents and visitors with an inclusive, transparent and responsive government, and an infrastructure that is committed to the enhancement of a safe, healthy and attractive lifestyle, while preserving and improving its natural and man-made assets.

Cover Page:

Update Town Council, Planning Commission, and Staff member lists

Page 6, Title:

Replace "2006" with 2012.

Page 7, Introduction:

Replace the last paragraph on Page 7 with the following:

A resource for this Plan was the South Bethany community survey approved on March 11, 2011 by the Town Council and completed with compiled results in July, 2011. A copy of this Community Survey can be found in Appendix A.

Page 7, The 2000 Comprehensive Plan:

Eliminate entire paragraph

Page 9, Planning and Zoning Implementation Strategies

Remove "Make efforts to improve emergency health care"

Remove "Modify Code to require garbage can bins throughout the Town."

Page 9-10, Replace Infrastructure and Environment Implementation Strategies with:

Infrastructure

- Control storm water along Town streets as recommended in the 1995 report issued by George Miles & Buhr Architects (GMB) & Engineers to minimize flooding and allow some time for storm water to be absorbed by the ground
- Document existing drains; ensure they are not plugged and utilize perforated pipe to allow storm water to be absorbed by the ground
- Request input from homeowners on specific problem areas

- Encourage homeowners to fill low spots or build rain gardens and grade toward property lines
- Consider check valves in drains to prevent backflow during high tides
- Accept flooding during high tides. If roads are raised, then property flooding would increase
- Consider replacement of existing street lights with fixtures that minimize side glare
- Evaluate feasibility including cost of placing electric, phone, and cable utilities underground

Beach

- Annually set aside funds for future beach replenishment
- Maintain beach cleanliness and safety
- Continue to actively seek, request, and support state and federal funding for beach replenishment

Canals

- Continue to implement recommendations from the 2010 Anchorage Canal Drainage Area Study such as the Route 1 median project
- Continue to educate homeowners about water quality initiatives and actions they can take to improve canal water quality such as avoiding discharge of grass clippings into the canals, minimizing use of fertilizer, use of rain gardens for storm water, disconnecting downspouts and outside shower drains that discharge into the canal
- Continue the Town beautification and canal cleaning volunteer programs
- Continue to participate in the Citizens Monitoring Program for water quality and the oyster gardening program
- Review the results of the canal aeration pilot project and consider extending it for low oxygen areas in canals if appropriate
- Continue to pursue options to mitigate the formation of algae through reduced nutrient load and/or improved circulation at the canal dead end locations
- Provide an annual budget item for future canal dredging
- Continue to actively seek, request, and support state and federal funding for future canal dredging and water quality improvement efforts

Wetlands

- Preserve Town owned wetlands

Pages 11 and 12, Replace with:

SUMMARY OF THE 2011 SURVEY OF TOWN PROPERTY OWNERS

This survey was drafted by the Planning Commission during the fall of 2010 and sent to Martin Wollaston, a policy scientist from the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration for a professional review. The Town Council reviewed the draft survey and comments provided by Martin Wollaston during a Workshop meeting on January 27, 2011. The survey was reviewed line-by-line during the February 24, 2011 Town Council Workshop and submitted to the Council for approval on March 11, 2011. The approved survey was sent to 1,317 property owners on March 22, 2011 with a return due date of May 2, 2011. In addition to soliciting opinions and priorities related to a wide range of community issues, the survey included several open-ended questions to ensure that the survey respondents could raise any issues which may not have been anticipated.

The Town received a total of 860 responses (65%) to the survey. Results indicated the needs of the Town are being met. Overall respondents were satisfied with current conditions and agreed that the Town's highest future priorities should focus on maintaining a replenished beach and maintaining dredged canals.

The Results Report for the 2011 Town of South Bethany Comprehensive Plan Community Survey (Reference 1) is available on the Town website. It reflects the general belief that the property owners would like to see the Town of South Bethany remain a single-family, home-resort community with improvements to transportation, public safety preparedness, governmental services, and environmental conditions. The survey demonstrated that the property owners share the belief that development pressures have increased in the last 10 years and that the resulting traffic and congestion reduce the quality of life within the Town and surrounding areas. The property owners value the family atmosphere as well as peace and quiet within the community.

Development has slowed due to the recession starting in 2008. The question of development within and surrounding the Town continues to be a concern. Planning and land use are important issues. Additionally, consistent enforcement of building and zoning codes concerns many property owners.

The environment and quality of life issues that concern the property owners are consistent with the primary objectives and activities of South Bethany. Property owners continue to be concerned about the cleanliness and long-term replenishment of the beach, the canal water quality, and usability of the canals that serve their community, as well as property appearance maintenance and beautification even though the town has made significant progress in all of these areas in the last five years.

Page 15, Town History, Add the following:

For information on progress and historic developments since 2006, see Appendices Reference No. 4 – Town of South Bethany Comprehensive Plan Annual Reports April 20, 2009; July 22, 2010; September 20, 2011; June 20, 2012.

SOUTH BETHANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (SBHS)

The society is a volunteer organization established in 2010 to collect, preserve and promote the history of South Bethany. Membership, currently over 60, is open to all interested persons. Although the SBHS is an independent organization, it works closely with the South Bethany Property Owners Association (SBPOA) and the Town of South Bethany. SBPOA and the Town support the SBHS including promoting community awareness, providing meeting facilities, website space, and financial assistance.

Accomplishments:

- Arranged a community celebration of the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of South Bethany in 1969. Pictures and information about this event are on the Town web site under History.
- Developed Repository Guidelines and Deed of Gift Process.
- In cooperation with the Salisbury University Edward Knabb Center collected, preserved, catalogued and arranged secure storage of historic documents, including several hundred newspaper articles, pictures, brochures, books and maps. Most of these documents are available on a CD.
- Interviewed and recorded memories of past mayors and early residents which resulted in 100 pages "A Compilation of Interviews, Writings and Musings".
- Prepared 30 page picture book on the 1962 "Storm of the Century" for table top display.
- With a grant from the Delaware Humanities Forum conducted a seminar at the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach. The event entitled "In the Wake of the '62 Storm" was attended by 135 people and received high praise with requests for more such programs.
- Participated in a DNREC Workshop, on the Storm of 1962, held at the Rehoboth Convention Center with a table display and presentation of information on Storm effects in South Bethany.
- Prepared a web page about the SBHS, now posted on the web site of the SBPOA.
- Authored and arranged for several newspaper articles published in the Wave and Coastal Point on the history of South Bethany and the work of SBHS.

Plans:

- In cooperation with nearby Historical Societies and the Delaware Humanities Forum, will bring a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition on the history of the area, to be held in the spring of 2013.
- Preparing a program on the history of South Bethany canals to be presented in the fall of 2013.
- Collect and preserve pictures and documentation of the 2012 storm "Sandy" with particular attention to the bay side devastation.

Replace Pages 17-26 with the following:

SOUTH BETHANY TODAY

The 2010 raw Census data relevant to South Bethany is provided in Reference 2. It includes population and housing figures for Delaware, Sussex County and South Bethany. Reference 3 also includes a summary of South Bethany and Sussex County data from the 2000 Census. Strikingly, the data reflect that South Bethany's population actually decreased 8.7% from 492 to 449 over the 10 year period. During the same time Sussex County's population increased 25.8% from 156, 638 to 197,145.

It should be noted that Census figures count all persons, though errors, omissions and over-counts often occur. Such errors have a minimal effect on large populations but are magnified in small populations. Consequently, the figures should be viewed with that in mind.

Page 27, Add the following second paragraph under "The Effects of Changing Demographics Within South Bethany"

South Bethany continues to maintain its single family residential community basis. From and including 2006 to June 30, 2012, there have been 34 new housing starts. One parcel of land continues to be designated for C-1 commercial use, the York Beach Mall area. There have been no annexations of additional land.

Page 27, Delete "Implications"

Page 29-31, Delete all references to the 1999 Survey

Page 30, Replace 3rd paragraph with the following:

In addition, Paragraph 145-36 of the South Bethany Code was modified to limit the area of the commercial zone, C-1, to the existing square footage and to set a minimum number of commercial establishments on the property. Parking area was also limited to the existing area and the building height limit was set at the current building height.

Pages 34-43, Replace with the following:

ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

Environment

The main environmental goals identified by the 2011 Town Survey are beach replenishment, canal dredging, and improving canal water quality. Since 2006 several projects have been identified and funded to dredge some of the town canals, reduce the nutrient load into the canals and improve dissolved oxygen levels during the summer

months. Beach replenishment with federal and state funds was accomplished twice in this period after erosion caused by coastal storms.

Town owned wetlands must also be protected to comply with provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Code of the State of Delaware.

The beach and canals are South Bethany's greatest assets. Improving and maintaining canal water quality requires citizen participation as well as support from the State and other resources to reduce nutrient runoff from Route 1.

Canal Water Quality

South Bethany's canals provide an excellent recreational opportunity for many homeowners and guests. Residents placed canal water quality third on a list of 15 future town needs identified in the 2011 Community Survey.

Water quality in the South Bethany canals is affected by discharge of storm water into the canals, and the addition of nutrients from lawn maintenance, grass clippings, animal waste, and outdoor shower and roof gutter discharge into the canals. The objective is to improve water quality so that canals are swimmable (low bacteria count) and fishable (adequate dissolved oxygen). Educational programs should continue to advise property owners on good practices to improve water quality.

The speed of watercraft also affects the water quality. Therefore, residents should be encouraged to limit speed and reduce the damage to the waterways.

Approximately 65 acres of the Route 1 corridor from north of Sea Colony to York Road on the south end drain into South Bethany's canals through a system of catch basins and drain pipes. A map of the storm water drainage area is provided in Appendix E. In 2004 a forebay was constructed at the east end of Anchorage canal to collect the storm water from the 65 acre northern corridor area along Route 1. The forebay acts as a "holding tank" to allow the pollutants in the storm water to settle to the bottom before discharging into the canal. The effectiveness of the forebay is limited by its small size relative to the amount of storm water discharging into it.

The Center for the Inland Bays (CIB) conducted a study in 2010, *Conceptual Pollution and Stormwater Control Strategy for the Anchorage Canal Drainage Area* by the Center for Watershed Protection and JMT (www.southbethany.org/cwq/PollutionandStormwaterControlStrategyFinalReport-1.pdf and www.southbethany.org/cwq/AppendixCAIIRetrofitConceptsCombined-1.pdf), to determine the best method for mitigating the nutrient runoff into the canals from the 65 acre corridor. As a result of this study, the Town, in partnership with the Center for Inland Bays, DelDOT, the University of Delaware, and surrounding communities of Middlesex Beach and Sea Colony, built bio-retention areas in front of Sea Colony, on the west side of Route 1, and in the median to collect and retain storm water before it reaches the canals. The ponds allow most of the storm water to be absorbed by the ground to filter

out pollutants before reaching the canals. The bio retention ponds were excavated around existing drains so that the drains are elevated above the bottom of the pond and provide overflow protection. The ponds are landscaped with native trees and shrubs that stabilize the soil and improve the appearance of the median. Grants for this work were provided by DelDOT, the Center for Inland Bays, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forestry Service, and the Town of South Bethany. While the bio-retention ponds should reduce the nutrient load into the canals, additional measures were recommended by the CIB study to improve water quality and should be implemented. These include a large, approximately 3 acre, wet pond in the triangular area near Sea Colony where Route 1 bears left and South Pennsylvania Ave. continues straight into Bethany, additional bio-retention ponds along the east side of route 1 in South Bethany, and additional bio-retention ponds along the east and west sides of Route 1 in Middlesex. These recommendations also include items that can be accomplished by homeowners such as minimizing fertilizers on turf lawns, planting native vegetation, eliminating rooftop downspouts and outdoor showers from draining into the canals, planting rain gardens, and by minimizing impervious surfaces.

Retention of storm water in Town street drains to mitigate nutrient runoff into the canals where possible is also planned. Standpipes are planned to be installed in existing catch basins to raise the water level, and the bottom of the basin will be perforated to allow the water to soak into the ground to filter out the nutrients before entering the canal.

Funds were allocated by the Town for a pilot diffuser project to aerate one of the canals that has low oxygen levels consistently during the summer. Aeration provided by a land mounted compressor will pump air through hoses to several diffusers located on the bottom of the canal. As the air then bubbles to the surface, oxygen increases and circulation improves. The compressor uses electricity and will be located near a utility pole. A similar arrangement is operating in the retention pond of a nearby community. If the diffuser system is successful in increasing oxygen levels, the Town should consider using the diffusers in other areas with low oxygen levels in the summer.

Residents have been advised to avoid discharging grass clippings into the canal, to use fertilizer sparingly, and to incorporate rain gardens where possible to capture pollutants from the first flush of storm water. Additional voluntary actions requested should include disconnecting downspouts and outdoor showers from drains leading directly to canals. Ordinances address these last issues for new construction.

Some bayside residents participate in an oyster gardening program sponsored by The Center for the Inland Bays. The CIB provides floats and cages with oyster spat to resident volunteers who tie the float to their dock or bulkhead. The oysters are periodically rinsed and measured as they mature over a period of 2 to 2 ½ years when they are removed and “planted” in a suitable location in the bay for regeneration. The oysters filter the water as they are growing and help improve the water quality. Participation in the program is growing and the CIB plans to advocate for legislation supporting commercial oyster farming for the Inland Bays.

Volunteers have been participating in the Citizen Monitoring Program administered by the University of Delaware for 20 years. Currently, ten volunteers in South Bethany measure dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, and turbidity at ten sites in Town and six sites in the Little Assawoman Bay. Water samples are collected for nutrients, bacteria, and harmful algae blooms once a week in the summer and once a month in the winter. The University of Delaware oversees the Citizen Monitoring Program and collects the data from many towns in the inland bay area and reports results once a month in the summer. The data provide a record of the canal water quality as well as a basis for comparison with other segments of the Inland Bays. South Bethany should continue to participate in The Citizen Monitoring Program.

Beach Issues

The ocean, beach, and canals have been recognized as primary reasons for the existence and prosperity of South Bethany. Protecting and maintaining these resources is essential for the Town and its property owners.

- Cleanliness

The 2011 town survey notes that 91% of residents are either very satisfied or satisfied with beach cleaning services. The town continues to devote resources to daily beach cleaning during the tourist season and as needed cleaning during the off season. No specific change in policy, resource allocation, or direction seems needed.

- Replenishment

Much has improved since the 2006 CDP. There have been two large beach replenishment projects completed with Federal and State funds. In 2008 the beach was widened and a 16 foot dune was built to protect South Bethany properties. Both were subsequently heavily damaged by a series of northeast storms in 2009, and were repaired in late 2011. The beach is in excellent condition and continues to be a major town and community asset. The 2011 town survey reflects that 93% were in favor of maintaining the town's greatest asset. When respondents were asked to prioritize future needs, 410 respondents stated "Maintain Replenished Beach" was the 1st of 15, and 55% of those were willing to have taxes increased for that purpose. Considering the uncertainty of obtaining Federal funds in the future, the Town should set aside funds annually for future beach replenishment.

- Beach Accessibility

Much has also improved in beach accessibility since 2006. Seventeen over-the-dune walkways have been installed.

In 2011 the town experimented with Mobi-Mats to facilitate walking over the dune. In the 2011 survey when asked about Future Needs, Mobi-Mats scored 9th out of 15. The town has purchased several sets of these mats. One half of the Mobi-Mats cost was covered by a grant from DNREC.

When questioned about installing hand rails on the dune 59% of those with an opinion responded that they are either not needed or wanted. However, when asked to prioritize Future Needs they scored rather high at 5th out of 15. One was installed at N. 6th Street. There are no current plans to install additional hand rails.

One handicap boardwalk is installed at S 3rd St. In response to the question about installing two additional handicap boardwalks across the dune, 59% of those with an opinion said they were not needed or wanted. However, when asked to prioritize future needs handicap boardwalks scored 4th of 15. There are no current plans to install additional handicap boardwalks.

Canal Maintenance

Several initiatives have been taken to improve canal appearance and cleanliness. An Adopt-A-Canal/Road End program solicited volunteers to plant and maintain shrubs and flowers at the canal dead ends. A volunteer program to remove trash and debris from canals has also started. These programs should be continued.

In the spring, macroalgae often form in areas with poor circulation and high nutrients. These algae were abundant in the spring of 2012 covering the full width of many canal dead ends located adjacent to Route 1. The algae are unsightly and contribute to low oxygen levels in the water as they decay. The current solution is to request DNREC to remove the algae with a mechanized harvester built for this purpose. The Town should continue to pursue options to mitigate the formation of algae through reduced nutrient load and/or improved circulation, especially at the dead end locations.

Canal Dredging

Respondents in the 2011 Community Survey placed “Maintain Dredged Canals” 2nd in a list of 15 future needs. Ninety percent of those with an opinion said maintaining dredged canals was either needed or very much needed. Of the 322 respondents who selected “Maintain Dredged Canals” as a top priority 57% were willing to have taxes increased for that purpose.

Occasional dredging of the canals is necessary to remove silt deposited during storms to improve water circulation and maintain adequate depth for boat navigation. A survey was made in 2009 that identified canal areas with a depth of less than 3 feet at mean low tide, and dredging was done in the 2009/2010 time period at a cost to the Town of over \$300K. At the same time DNREC dredged the Assawoman Canal to facilitate improved boat navigation and water circulation between Little Assawoman Bay and Indian River Bay. Since canal dredging is expensive and has been identified as an important future need, the Town should set aside money each year for this purpose.

Tidal Pump

A Tidal Pump has been considered in the past to improve canal water circulation and water quality. The concept is to install piping between the ocean and the canals to allow an exchange of water driven by relative tide changes. A Town funded study showed the concept would reduce residence time in the canals from 120 days to just a few days. The estimated cost for the system was \$7M and would take approximately 2 years to complete. The proposal was not accepted by DNREC in part because the beneficial effects would be limited to the Town and would not appreciably affect the inland bays.

Wetlands

The Town owns environmentally sensitive wetlands that must be maintained. Regulatory protection of wetlands is mandated under Federal 404 provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act. Tidal wetlands are also protected by the State of Delaware Code under Title 7, Chapter 66. Compliance with these statutes may require approval of the Army Corps of Engineers and/or DNREC.

Town Hall and Police Facilities

The Town has constructed a separate Town Hall facility with offices and meeting rooms for the Mayor, Town Council, Town Manager, and Staff. It is located adjacent to a new building for the Police Department.

Recreational Park

A recreational park to be located in the triangular wooded parcel east of Town Hall was considered by the Town in 2010. Facilities such as playground equipment, exercise stations, and a pavilion were suggested as possibilities for the park. A survey was mailed to property owners to assess interest in the park in November, 2010. Seventy three percent of property owners responded to the survey and 81 percent of the respondents were not in favor of the park. The triangular wooded parcel east of Town Hall should remain in its current state.

Replace Pages 44-46 with the following:

TOWN FINANCES (BUDGET AND FINANCE)

In 2009, the Budget and Finance Committee was created to provide the Town Council with review and recommendation on financial issues. The Committee's role is to directly provide special skills and expertise support to the Town's Treasurer, and indirectly, the Town Council, with regard to annual budgeting, investment management, and long-range financial planning.

In large part, the Committee reviews the annual draft budget developed by the Town Manager and Financial Director. They then make any modifications for improvement, and bring forth the draft to Council for their ultimate approval.

In addition to budget review and recommendation, the Budget and Finance Committee serves as a vehicle to analyze specific financial issues. Their most recent undertaking was the creation of the ARM Reserve (Asset Replacement and Maintenance Reserve) which facilitates a long-term planning segment for South Bethany.

The Town is in sound financial condition. The pie charts provided on the following page show the percentage of General fund revenues and General fund expenses as of April 30, 2012.

Detailed spreadsheets for Revenues and Expenses can be accessed at the Town of South Bethany website, www.southbethany.org. Click on “Budget and Finance” on the column on the left side of the home page.

An area of revenue concern is transfer tax. This is significantly down due to the slow real estate market. Projections for this revenue stream remain very conservative. The Council also continues to review other revenue opportunities, e.g. property tax increase, construction fees, and fees for non-reporting of rental income. These areas of possible income should continue to be reviewed and studied.

The Town continues to review expense cuts. The budget is very lean. The Council pursues Federal, State and County grants when available to mitigate expenses and has had success in this area.

The FY 2012 Revenue/Expense Recap (Operating Budget) is provided on the following pages. The 2013 Budget can be viewed on the South Bethany website.

Replace Pages 47-48 with the following:

STREETS AND PARKING

Drainage

The 2011 Community Survey conducted in April showed 78% of respondents who had an opinion (594) were satisfied with the Town’s storm water management. There were 68 written comments identifying 11 streets that respondents stated had “large puddles”, or “flooding”, or “too much standing water”.

Standing water or flooding on town roads can be caused by inadequate drainage, low road elevation, private property grading, or extreme high tides that breach the bulkheads or allow backflow through the drain pipe. Observations after Hurricane Irene in late August 2011 indicated minimal issues with storm water control. Flooding occurred in some low lying lots and low lying roads due to the extreme high tide that back flowed storm drains and overflowed bulkheads.

Initiatives to address this issue include:

- Document all storm water drain locations and their condition
- Request input from homeowners to identify specific problem areas
- Encourage property owners to fill low areas or convert low areas into rain gardens
- Consider check valves in some storm water drains to prevent back flow during high tide events
- Provide contour maps of property elevation in South Bethany to help property owners understand the flooding issue
- Accept flooding during extreme high tides. If roads were raised, then property flooding would be worse.

Speed

The speed limit on Town streets is 20 mph, and on Route 1 it is 35 mph within Town boundaries. Three stoplights on Route 1 at York Rd, Layton Rd, and Evergreen Rd. control traffic so that pedestrians can more easily and more safely cross Route 1. Speed bumps are used on some streets to actively control speed.

Evacuation Routes

Emergency evacuation routes for Bethany Beach area have been established by Sussex County and the State of Delaware. The three primary routes are: Route 1 north to Kent County; Route 26 west to US 113 north; and County Road 361 (Kent Avenue) to State Route 20.

The State of Delaware ordered a mandatory evacuation of all areas within 0.75 miles of the coast for Hurricane Irene in late August, 2011. The evacuation was successfully executed in South Bethany.

Landscaping

In 2011 the Town Council voted to change the name of the Beautification Committee to the Community Enhancement Committee (CEC), thus reflecting alignment with the Committee's priorities and scope of work. The CEC continues to emphasize beautification issues, but also focuses on issues that enhance the South Bethany community, including individual property and town appearance and community volunteerism. The CEC has also actively engaged in partnerships with the Water Quality Committee to promote and implement initiatives that both beautify the town and help improve canal water quality. In 2011, these two committees joined forces to enhance the Route 1 Median area by creating 13 bioretention areas that allow storm water to be absorbed by the ground rather than directly into the canal. South Bethany received several grants from the Department of Forestry Services that allowed 88 trees to be planted within these bioretention areas. In 2012, the Town received a Transportation Enhancement Program grant from DelDOT that enabled the Town to accomplish the following: 1) landscape the areas adjacent to the York Beach Mall parking lot and the pedestrian walkway; 2) create 11 rain gardens along the Route 1 pedestrian walkway; and

3) landscape the existing circle bed rain gardens within the Route 1 Median. The CEC also has established the "Adopt-A-Canal/Road End Program" which encourages residents to adopt a Town-owned canal/road end and landscape the area to improve appearance, water absorption and canal visibility. As of 2012, 13 canal/road end gardens have been created throughout the town. The CEC has also developed several informational flyers that promote improved appearance of residential and rental properties. The CEC is also focused on implementing the Ocean Drive Blueprint, a plan to improve the overall appearance of Ocean Drive – South Bethany's gateway to the Ocean. The 2011 Community Survey showed 90% of 788 responses with an opinion were either satisfied or very satisfied with the maintenance of the Town landscaping.

Parking

Permit parking on the east side of Route 1 is required from May 15 through September 15. This practice should be continued. Parking permits are not required on the west side of Route 1. Parking issues east of Route 1 need further study.

Bicycle Paths and Pedestrian Walkways

Bicycle paths are located along the east and west sides of Route 1. Street walkways are located along the west side of Route 1 and along the southern end of York Road. Bicyclists are not permitted on walkways. Additional bike and street paths on Town streets are not planned at this time due to limited street width and right of way. Additional pavement also increases the discharge of pollutants into the canals during storms. Sixty two percent of 738 respondents with an opinion thought additional bike and walking paths were not needed or not wanted in the 2011 Community Survey.

Street Maintenance

Ocean Drive, the Town's most eastern street that runs parallel to the beach, was repaved in 2011 at a cost of \$88,341.88. Within the last two years, the Town began a permitting process for cuts and bores made in and under town streets to accommodate utilities. It sets standards for cuts made into the road and their repair and allows the Town to track road cuts and bores.

The Town had an older truck equipped with a snowplow and when the Beach Patrol truck was replaced in 2012 purchased an additional snowplow equipped truck. The use of salt to melt snow and ice is restricted to intersections to minimize cost and limit runoff of salt into the canals.

The 2011 Community Survey indicated 90% of the respondents who had an opinion were satisfied or very satisfied with street maintenance and 90% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with snow removal.

Replace Pages 49-51 with the following:

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Five public utilities serve South Bethany to provide water, sewer, electricity, propane, and cable/telephone. The utilities are listed in Appendix C.

Public Water Supply

The South Bethany water system provides water service to over 98 percent of the Town's residents. A limited number of residents have elected to continue using their own wells. The underground system was completed in 1999 and is owned and operated by Artesian Water Company. The primary sources of water are two wells, each with a capacity of 1,500 gpm, and located on the grounds of Town Hall. Water is pumped to an elevated tank with a 500,000 gallon storage capacity. The system is capable of supplying 2.0 million gallons per day. Water is treated for iron removal, disinfection (chlorine), corrosion control (phosphate), pH control (sodium hydroxide), and it is also treated with fluoride.

When water demand is reduced in the off season, the South Bethany facility goes off line and water is provided by Artesian's Bayville facility located off Route 54 west of Fenwick Island. The Bayville facility has two wells, each with a capacity of 700 gpm and a storage tank with a capacity of one million gallons.

Wastewater

South Bethany is one of 12 Sewer Districts that use the South Coastal Region wastewater treatment facility operated by Sussex County. The facility is located at Beaver Dam Road and has a capacity of 9 million gallons/day. Treated wastewater is discharged into the ocean, approximately one mile offshore from a location between Bethany Beach and Sea Colony.

The County has recently upgraded the four wet pumps located within the Town.

Electricity

At the present time, approximately 40% of Town residents are served with underground electric, telephone, and cable wires. Underground electric service reduces outages during storms and improves the aesthetic environment. The Delaware Public Service Commission requires new services be installed underground.

A system of pole mounted street lights are installed on many streets within the Town. The results of the 2011 Community Survey showed 69% of those with an opinion said more street lights are not needed or not wanted. The Town should investigate a means to reduce side glare from existing lights without compromising good vision at street level.

Cable

Cable service for television, telephone, and the Internet is provided by Mediacom. Competing landline and internet service is provided by Verizon and competing television service is provided by satellite carriers. The Community Survey conducted in April, 2011 showed 53% of the 704 respondents with an opinion were either “Not Satisfied” or “Very Unsatisfied” with the Mediacom service.

The Towns of South Bethany, Bethany Beach, Millville, and Ocean View formed the Southern Delaware Cable Consortium and contracted with a Cohen Law Group to negotiate a new cable franchise agreement for the individual towns.

Propane

Propane is delivered to homes either in underground pipes owned by Sharp Energy Co. or by truck from another provider that refills tanks mounted outside the home. The underground pipes deliver propane from an underground tank located near Town Hall. This arrangement eliminates the gas tank at individual homes and reduces truck traffic on town roads.

Replace Pages 55-56 with the following:

PRIORITIES

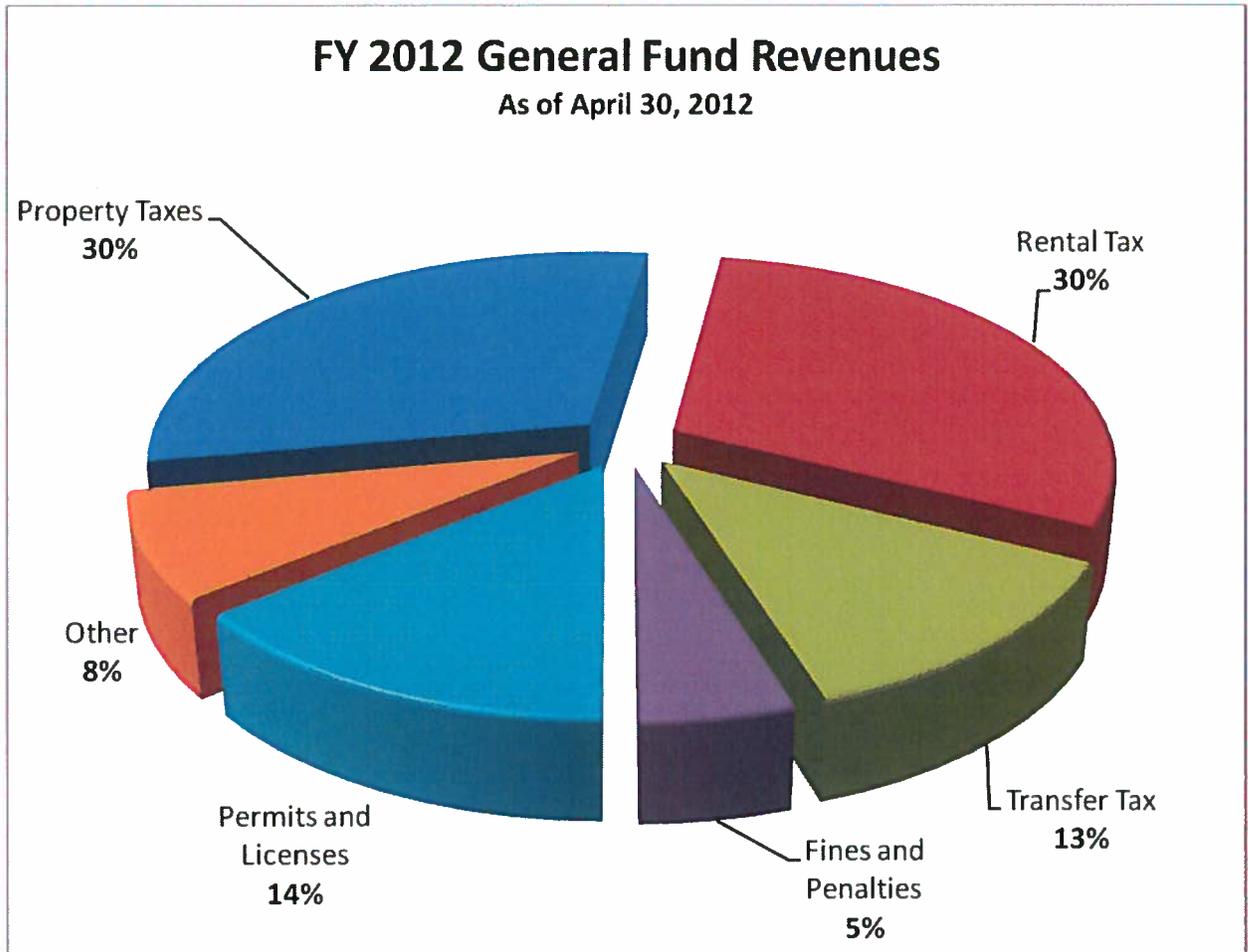
The 2011 Community Survey identified beach replenishment and canal dredging as the most important future needs with 55% and 57% respectively willing to increase taxes for that purpose. The Survey also indicated property owners are generally satisfied with the Town the way it is. That said, continued attention and improvement to the following items are important to the property owners:

- Maintain a clean, accessible, and safe beach
- Improve canal water quality
- Maintain the canals
- Maintain sound financial and budgeting practices
- Ensure uniform enforcement of ordinances and laws
- Ensure uniform enforcement of building codes
- Maintain streets, walkways, and landscaping
- Continue current level of town services

APPENDICES

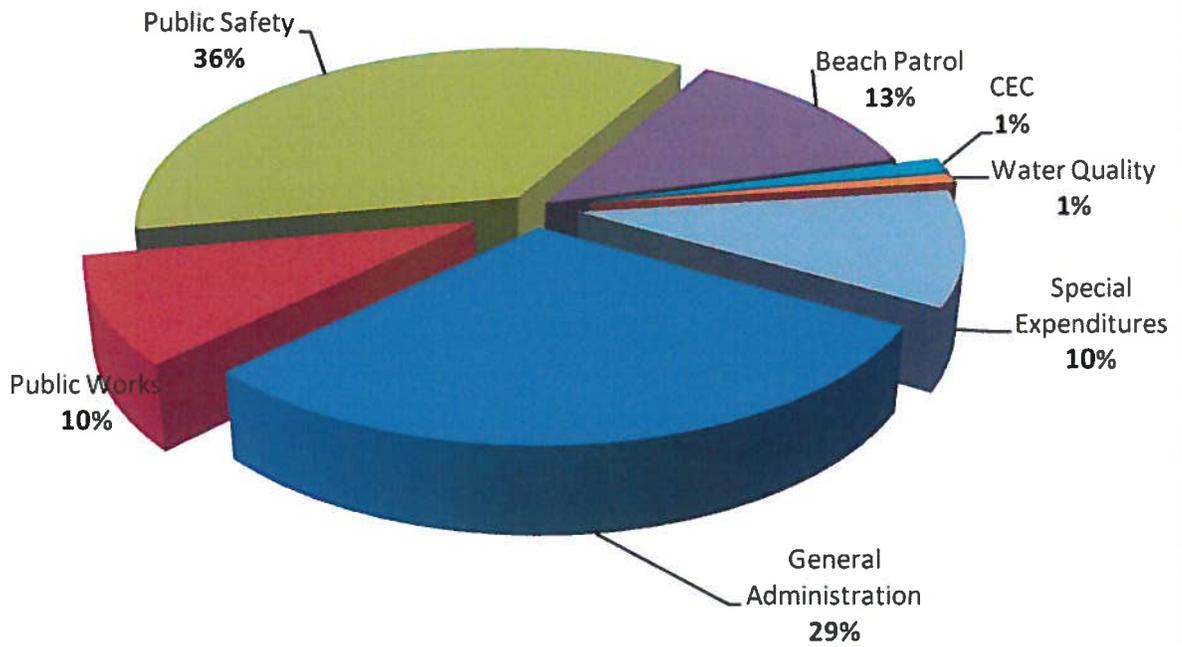
Appendix A FY 2012 General Revenues

Appendix A



FY 2012 General Fund Expenses

As of April 30, 2012



References

1. Town of South Bethany Community Survey April 2011 Comprehensive Plan Community Survey Results Report – July 2011. (See Town Website)
2. South Bethany 2010 U.S. Census Data, Sussex County 2010 Census Data
3. Sussex County 2010 Census Data broken down by various measures. See www.census.gov, Fact Finder, 2010 Population Finder, 2010 Demographic Profile
4. Town of South Bethany Comprehensive Plan Annual Reports April 20, 2009; July 22, 2010; September 20 2011; June 20, 2012. (Attached)
5. *Conceptual Pollution and Stormwater Control Strategy for the Anchorage Canal Drainage Area* by the Center for Watershed Protection and JMT. See: <http://www.southbethany.org/cwq/PollutionandStormwaterControlStrategyFinalReport-1.pdf>

Municipal Comprehensive Plan Annual Report

Name of Municipality: **South Bethany**

Date of Plan Certification: **July 14, 2006** **Date of Report: April 20, 2009**

1. Please state the municipality's accomplishments in implementing its comprehensive plan over the last year.

Implementation Strategies

- **Town Administration and Capital Improvement**
 - New Town Hall/Administrative building and new Police Department building completed.
 - Town maintains sound financial and budgeting practices. Financial audits are conducted each year. Seminars with the State Treasurer's Office have improved purchasing procedures using state contracts.
 - Best management practices are used by the Town in implementing various projects. Projects that require Army Corps of Engineers and DNREC approval require that best management practices (BMP) be utilized.
- **Planning and Zoning**
 - Single-family community character has been maintained. There have been no zoning changes.
 - Enforcement of codes and ordinances continues. New ordinances have been passed and existing ordinances have been improved to ensure compliance and proper notification.
 - Appearance of the Town has been improved by adding new flower beds along Rt. 1 and improving landscaping at the canal ends.
 - Code requires that any garbage cans and recycle containers left at curbside must be enclosed by an appropriate garbage bin.
- **Surrounding Land Uses**
 - There have been no annexations of surrounding lands.
 - Mayor and Town Manager are very active in the Sussex County Association of Towns, Delaware League of Local Governments, Town Managers Association, Coastal Association of Towns, Chamber of Commerce, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and the Bethany Beach Fire Department Ambulance Service Group.
 - Access to Emergency Health care has been improved by the formation of the new Bethany Beach Fire Department Ambulance service.
 - Significant improvements have been made to beautification around the Town by the Beautification Committee and the Maintenance Department.

- Infrastructure
 - Town continues to monitor public utilities. Negotiations have begun for new cable franchise agreement which is to be in place by 2012.
 - Placing above-ground utilities underground was evaluated and deemed too costly at this time.
 - The Town continues to look at adding additional pedestrian walkways throughout Town. The Towns of South Bethany, Bethany Beach, Ocean View and the community of Sea Colony along with the Delaware State Parks Division are currently planning and designing the proposed Assawoman Canal Pathway.
 - Drainage improvements have been made throughout the Town. Only a few minor problem areas exist. These areas are scheduled for improvement in 2009.
 - Future road improvements are in the planning stages including the asphalt overlay of Ocean Drive (when funds are available).
 - A revised evacuation plan has been completed and is posted online.
 - The east side of Rt. 1 adjacent to the homeowner's property lines has not been improved with any type landscaping at this time. This area is in the DelDOT right-of-way and they must approve of any plantings in the area. Thus far they have recommended against any additional landscaping in that area.
 - The Town has not installed a fence around the east end of the Anchorage Canal. Any structure would have to be completed in coordination with DelDOT since they maintain the retention facility.
- Environment, Recreation, and Open Space
 - The canal dredging project has been completed.
 - Town-owned wetlands have been preserved and will continue to be.
 - Beach replenishment has been completed. The Town continues to request assistance with future beach replenishment needs.
 - The South Bethany Maintenance Department checks the beach daily for litter and any type of debris. The Town has a full Beach Patrol compliment consisting of certified lifeguards and two Emergency Medical Technicians.

2. Title 22, Chapter 7, Section 702, Del Code requires that within 18 months of comprehensive plan adoption, lands be rezoned in accordance with the land uses provided for in the comprehensive plan. Has this process been completed? If not, why? When is it expected to be complete? N/A

3. Has any land been annexed into the municipality since the adoption of the comprehensive plan or the last annual report? _____ Yes X No

of annexations: 0

of acres annexed: 0

Please list any annexations during this time period.

None

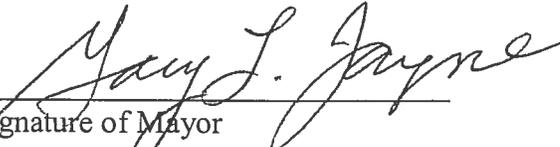
4. The annual report is the municipality's opportunity to submit any plan corrections or minor plan amendments to the Office of State Planning Coordination for review. Does the municipality have any such corrections or minor amendments to offer at this time? If yes, please describe. (Please note that any amendments to a certified comprehensive plan may be subject to review under the Preliminary Land Use Service. Major plan amendments may require a more thorough review and/or update of the comprehensive plan)

5. Please review the recommendations and implementation items in your comprehensive plan. Indicate on the list which items are complete, underway, or not yet started. Also if there are other comments to add, please include them.
 - Beautification Committee and Maintenance Department has continued to improve appearance of the Town by increasing the number of flower beds using a consultant to determine BMP and plantings to use. Resting benches and new signage for the beach will be added for the summer of 2009.
 - The Town has continued to maintain the single-family nature of the community through various ordinances and no zoning changes.
 - The canal dredging project has been completed to improve navigation. A Water Quality Committee has been formed to study and make recommendations to improve the water quality of the South Bethany Canal system.
 - The beach replenishment project has been completed. Storm protection is now in place along the beach front along with a much wider and improved beach. Improved access to the beach via improved beach walkways will be completed in the spring of 2009.
 - The Town has begun discussions with Mediacom Cable Company to negotiate a new cable franchise agreement. The Towns of South Bethany, Bethany Beach, and Ocean View have agreed to negotiate as a group to achieve the best services available to the residents of the area.
 - The Town has continued to maintain a full-time, year-round police department.
 - The Town entered into a unique agreement with the communities of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, and the Sea Colony Recreation Association and the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department to fund and implement the new Bethany Beach Fire Department Ambulance Service.
 - The Town continues to strive to provide Town services in a friendly manner to its residents. The Town has been accepted into the Community Rating System (CRS) which allows residents to receive a 10% discount of their flood insurance.

6. Are there any planning issues that the municipality is currently facing for which the Office of State Planning Coordination may be able to offer technical or financial assistance? (Livable Delaware Grants are available for development and implementation of comprehensive plans). If yes, please describe below.

No

On behalf of the Town of South Bethany, I respectfully submit this comprehensive plan annual report to the Office of State Planning Coordination. The information contained in the report is correct and complete.



Signature of Mayor

4/21/09
Date

Gary L. Jayne
Printed Name of Mayor

Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plan Annual Report

Name of Municipality: Town of South Bethany

Date of Plan Certification: July 14, 2006

Date of Report: July 22, 2010

1. Please state the municipality's accomplishments in implementing its comprehensive plan over the last year.

Implementation Strategies

- Town Administration and Capital Improvement
 - Town maintains sound financial and budgeting practices. Financial audits are conducted each year. Town Council has appointed a Budget and Finance Committee that approves and monitors the budget throughout the year. Capital Assets are depreciated and a Depreciation Reserve Account has been created to make necessary improvements and/or replacement of capital assets.
 - 20 year projection for streets, bulkheads, and Town vehicles has been created to determine when improvements and/or replacements are needed.
 - Best management practices are used by the Town in implementing various projects. Projects that require Army Corps of Engineers and DNREC approval require that best management practices (BMP) be utilized.

- Planning and Zoning
 - Single-family community character has been maintained. There have been no changes other than separation of lots.
 - Enforcement of codes and ordinances continues. New ordinances have been passed and existing ordinances have been and continue to be improved to ensure compliance, proper notification and less ambiguity.
 - Town Council has appointed a new Beautification Committee to plan and budget for new plantings and improvements around the Town which will hopefully assist in improving water quality of the Town Canal system.
 - Code requires that any garbage cans and recycling containers left at curbside must be enclosed by an appropriate garbage bin. Code was changed to allow garbage bins in the setback.
 - The Planning Commission recommended revisions to the Chapter 20 of the Town Code which were approved by the Town Council.
 - The Planning Commission revised its bylaws and procedures to update and improve practices.

- Surrounding Land Uses
 - There have been no annexations of surrounding lands.
 - Town remains active in the Sussex County Association of Towns, Delaware League of Local Governments, City Managers Association, Coastal Association of Towns, Chamber of Commerce, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance Service Group.
 - Access to Emergency Health care has been improved by continuing support of the Bethany Beach Fire Department Ambulance Service.
 - Significant improvements have been made to beautification projects around the Town. More projects are being planned by the town Beautification Committee.

- Infrastructure
 - Town continues to monitor public utilities. South Bethany has joined with the towns of Bethany Beach, Millville, and Ocean View to form a Cable Consortium Group. This group has retained the services of the Cohen Law Group to negotiate a new franchise agreement with Mediacom which is to be in place by 2012. The Town and Artesian Water Company negotiated lease agreements with Verizon Wireless to add cell phone antennas to the water tank and a support structure on Town property to improve phone coverage in the area and provide supplemental rental income to the Town.
 - Placing above-ground utilities underground was discussed and assumed to be too costly.
 - The Town continues to look at adding additional pedestrian walkways throughout the Town. The Assawoman Canal Pathway Project is still in the planning stages with surrounding towns and DNREC.
 - Most drainage improvements have been made. Only a few minor problems remain.
 - A 20 year road improvement schedule has been completed. This includes the proposed asphalt overlay of Ocean Drive when funds are budgeted.
 - A revised evacuation plan is posted online. The Town participates in the Sussex County Multi-jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - The east side of Rt. 1 adjacent to the homeowner's property lines has not been improved with any type of landscaping at this time. The area is in the DelDOT right-of-way and they must approve of any plantings in the area. Thus far they have recommended against any additional landscaping in that area. The Beautification Committee will be taking another look at this area.
 - The Town has not installed a fence around the east end of Anchorage Canal. Any structure would have to be approved by DelDOT since they maintain the retention facility. If the proposed fence is to be on any private property, the owner would have to grant permission.

- Environmental, Recreation, and Open Space
 - Town-owned wetlands have been preserved and will continue to be.
 - Continued beach replenishment is needed after the severe nor-easter storms this past year. Repairs have been made by the Town and the State of Delaware. The Town continues to request assistance with future beach replenishment needs.
 - The South Bethany Maintenance Department checks the beach daily for litter and debris. The South Bethany Women's Club assists with periodic cleanups of the beach. The Town also utilizes Community Service programs to assist in this endeavor. The Town has a full Beach Patrol compliment consisting of certified lifeguards and Emergency Medical Technicians.

2. Title 22, Chapter 7, Section 702, Del Code requires that within 18 months of comprehensive plan adoption, lands be rezoned in accordance with the land uses provided for in the comprehensive plan. Has this process been completed? If not, why? When is it expected to be complete? N/A

3. Has any land been annexed into the municipality since the adoption of the comprehensive plan or the last annual report? _____ Yes X No

of annexations: 0

of acres annexed: 0

Please list any annexations during this time period.

4. The annual report is the municipality's opportunity to submit any plan corrections or minor plan amendments to the Office of State Planning Coordination for review. Does the municipality have any such corrections or minor amendments to offer at this time? If yes, please describe. (Please note that any amendments to a certified comprehensive plan may be subject to review under the Preliminary Land Use Service. Major plan amendments may require a more thorough review and/or update of the comprehensive plan)

No

5. Please review the recommendations and implementation items in your comprehensive plan. Indicate on the list which items are complete, underway, or not yet started. Also if there are other comments to add, please include them.

- The Town's Beautification Committee and the South Bethany Maintenance Department have continued to improve the appearance of the Town. A new plan is currently being formulated. They have been assisted with donations from the South Bethany Property Owner's Association. Future plans will include Best Management Practices (BMP) and what plantings to use. Assistance is being sought from the University of Delaware.
- The Town has continued to maintain the single-family nature of the community through various ordinances and no zoning changes.

- The South Bethany Water Quality Committee continues work to improve the water quality of the canal system. The Committee will work closely with the Beautification Committee.
 - Improved access walkways to the beach were completed in 2009. Some of the walkways were destroyed by the two nor-easter storms this past winter. The Town will continue to work with the State of Delaware and the Army Corps of Engineers and elected representatives to seek funding for beach repair and replenishment.
 - The Town has entered into a Cable Consortium group with the Towns of Bethany Beach, Millville, and Ocean View to negotiate as a group a new cable franchise agreement for the individual Towns. This should achieve the best services available to the residents of the area.
 - The Town has continued to maintain a full-time, year-round police department.
 - The Town continues to actively participate and support the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance Service.
 - The Town continues to strive to provide Town services in a friendly manner to its residents. The Town has continued to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) which qualifies residents to receive a 10% discount on their flood insurance.
6. Are there any planning issues that the municipality is currently facing for which the Office of State Planning Coordination may be able to offer technical or financial assistance? (Livable Delaware Grants are available for development and implementation of comprehensive plans) If yes, please describe below.

No

7. Please help update our mailing list by supplying the following information:

Mayor: Jay Headman e-mail address: jayterp@msn.com

Town Manager: Melvin Cusick e-mail address: townmanager@southbethany.org

City Clerk: Dee Burbage e-mail address: townclerk@southbethany.org

Council/Commission Members:

John Fields
Rob Youngs
George Junkin

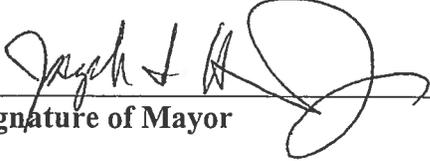
Tim Saxton
Sue Callaway
Bob Cestone

Planning Commission Members:

Jim Gross
Joan DeSantis
John Speer

Robert Johansen
Richard Oliver

On behalf of the Town of South Bethany, I respectfully submit this comprehensive plan annual report to the Office of State Planning Coordination. The information contained in the report is correct and complete.



Signature of Mayor

7/22/10

Date

Jay Headman

Printed Name of Mayor

Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plan Annual Report

Name of Municipality: Town of South Bethany

Date of Plan Certification: July 14, 2006

Date of Report: September 20, 2011

1. Please review the recommendations, goals and implementation items within your comprehensive plan and please indicate which items are complete, underway, or not yet started. Also please include any other comments you may wish to add.

Goals Listed in the 2006 CDP

- **Maintain and Improve the Appearance of the Community:**
 - The Town has continued to maintain and improve the appearance of the community. The Town's Beautification Committee and Water Quality Committee have joined forces to enhance the Town with trees, plantings, and landscaping that will improve the overall appearance of the Town as well as improve water quality by filtering water through ground absorption rather than direct runoff to the canals within the Town. A major project involving the Route 1 corridor which will be described under accomplishments is underway. The Beautification Committee has also begun an "Adopt a Canal End" program which allows residents to adopt a Town-owned street/canal end and landscape the area to improve appearance and improve water absorption.
- **Maintain the Single-Family Nature of the Community:**
 - The single-family nature of the community has been maintained. This is accomplished through Ordinances that limit commercial development as well as multi-family units. There have been no changes other than separation of lots.
- **Maintain and Improve the Canals to Promote Water Quality and Usability:**
 - Several projects are underway or in the planning stages to improve canal water quality. The Town, in partnerships with the Center for the Inland Bays, DeIDOT, the University of Delaware, and neighboring communities will have bio-retention areas created around storm drains located in the Route 1 median. Grant monies have been obtained through the Center for the Inland Bays, EPA, and DeIDOT to fund this project which will include excavation of the bio-retention areas to capture runoff water before it enters the canal system. The areas will be landscaped with native plantings and trees through a matching grant obtained through the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forestry Service. The Town Beautification Committee has also budgeted money for plantings for the bio-retention areas.

- **Maintain, Restore, and Improve Beach Appearance:**
 - Improved access walkways to the beach were completed in 2009. Most of the walkways were damaged during the February storms of 2010. Temporary repairs were made by the state of Delaware and the Town. The Town applied for and received a matching grant from the Delaware State Parks and Recreation to purchase 15 “Mobi-Matt” systems for the walkways to improve beach access. The beach walkways suffered minor damage from Hurricane Irene on August 27th and 28th. The Town made necessary repairs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Delaware will begin beach replenishment in October of this year. This is to repair damage suffered during the nor-easter storms that occurred in early 2010. The town continues to provide a full Beach Patrol staff consisting of certified lifeguards.
- **Provide High Quality Public Utilities to Town Residents:**
 - The Town continues to work with utility providers to enhance service to our residents. A Cable Consortium was formed with the Towns of Bethany Beach, Millville, and Ocean View to negotiate as a group a new cable franchise agreement for the individual Towns. This agreement should be signed in the near future. Sussex County has continued to improve the sanitary sewerage system that serves South Bethany. They have recently upgraded the four wet pumps at the stations located within the Town.
- **Maintain a Full-time, Year-Round Police Department:**
 - The Town continues to maintain a full-time, year round police department and hired an additional seasonal officer.
- **Improve Access to Emergency Health Care:**
 - The Town is a member of the Bethany Beach Ambulance Service Sponsors Committee. This committee consists of the Towns of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, South Bethany, and the private community of Sea Colony. Each Town assesses property owners an annual fee to support the ambulance service. The group meets quarterly with the Ambulance Service and the Bethany Beach Fire Department to review operations and to approve the annual budget. This service has greatly improved emergency response to the residents of the Town.
- **Provide Town Services in a Customer Friendly Manner:**
 - The Town continues to strive to provide Town services in a friendly and courteous manner to the residents. New services such as curb-side yard waste and posting of Mercantile License holders has been added to services provided.
 - The Town has been recertified for another year in the Community Rating System (CRS) which allows each resident with flood insurance to receive a 10% discount on their premium. This is a tremendous work effort by the Town staff that has a direct benefit to our residents.

2. Please highlight any significant accomplishments development issues, trends or conditions since the plan was last adopted or amended that may either have enhanced or hindered the implementation of your plan. These accomplishments may be used in the annual report to the Governor.
 - The Town is involved with a partnership with the Center for Inland Bays, DelDOT, the University of Delaware and surrounding communities in a project to improve water quality. The Anchorage Canal Drainage Area Storm Water Retrofit Project will provide bio-retention areas for storm water runoff and prevent storm water along the Route 1 corridor from directly entering the canal system in South Bethany. The project will filter storm water runoff from the communities of Sea Colony, Middlesex Beach, and South Bethany through ground absorption. This will be accomplished by excavating around the 13 catch basins in the Route 1 median and landscaping with native trees and plants. These projects will assist in achieving the goal of improving water quality in the canal system of South Bethany and the goal of improving the appearance of the community. Grants for the projects came from various sources including DelDOT, the Center for the Inland Bays, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forestry Service, and the Town of South Bethany. The tree planting and landscaping plan was developed with assistance from the University of Delaware.
 - The Town has received a \$25,000.00 grant from Sussex County for the South Bethany Police Department. This will assist in the goal of maintaining a year round full time Police Department.
 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control will begin a beach replenishment project this October. This estimated 8 million dollar project will achieve the goal of maintaining, restoring and improving the appearance of the beach in South Bethany.
 - The Town of South Bethany along with the Towns of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, and the community of Sea Colony has approved the FY 2012 budget for the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company Ambulance Service. This budget also includes funding a reserve account for vehicle replacement for the service. This will continue the goal of providing access to emergency health care for our community.
 - In April of this year, the Town sent out a Comprehensive Plan Community Survey to its property owners. The survey was drafted by the Town of South Bethany's Planning Commission. The draft survey was reviewed by Martin Wollaston of the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration. The draft survey was then presented to the Town Council for review. The Town Council approved the survey in March and then sent the revised survey out to 1,317 property owners on March 22, 2011. There were 860 (65%) completed survey forms returned to Town Hall. The survey results have been posted on the Town's website, and currently Town Council is reviewing the results and planning responses and recommendations.

3. Are there any planning issues that the municipality is currently facing? Do you anticipate any comprehensive plan changes for which the Office of State Planning Coordination may be able to offer technical assistance? If yes, please describe below.

At this time, no assistance is anticipated.

4. Please help update our mailing list by supplying the following information:

Mayor: Jay Headman e-mail address: mayor@southbethany.org

Town Manager: Melvin Cusick e-mail address: townmanager@southbethany.org

Planning Directory: NA e-mail address: NA

City Clerk: Dee Burbage e-mail address: townclerk@southbethany.org

Council/Commission Members:

John Fields
Pat Voveris
George Junkin

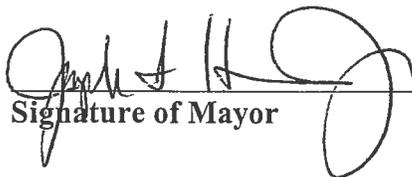
Al Rae
Sue Callaway
Jim Gross

Planning Commission Members:

Richard Oliver, Chairman
David Wilson
John Stefani

Robert Johansen, Secretary
Kathy Jankowski

On behalf of the Town of South Bethany, I respectfully submit this comprehensive plan annual report to the Office of State Planning Coordination. The information contained in the report is correct and complete.



Signature of Mayor

9/22/11

Date

Jay Headman

Printed Name of Mayor

*Development trends data is provided twice a year through the development trends data collection. Please contact the Office of State Planning Coordination with questions regarding development trends.

Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plan Annual Report

Name of Municipality: Town of South Bethany

Date of Plan Certification: July 14, 2006

Date of Report: June 20, 2012

1. Please review the recommendations, goals and implementation items within your comprehensive plan and please indicate which items are complete, underway, or not yet started. Also please include any other comments you may wish to add.

Goals Listed in the 2006 CDP

- **Maintain and Improve the Appearance of the Community:**
 - The Town has continued to maintain and improve the appearance of the community. The Town's Community Enhancement Committee and Water Quality Committee have joined forces to enhance the Town with trees, plantings, and landscaping that will improve the overall appearance of the Town as well as improve water quality by filtering water through ground absorption rather than direct runoff to the canals within the Town. Two major projects involving the Route 1 corridor which will be described under accomplishments have been completed. The Community Enhancement Committee has also begun an "Adopt a Canal End" program which allows residents to adopt a Town-owned street/canal end and landscape the area to improve appearance and improve water absorption.
- **Maintain the Single-Family Nature of the Community:**
 - The single-family nature of the community has been maintained. This is accomplished through Ordinances that limit commercial development as well as multi-family units. There have been no changes other than separation of lots.
- **Maintain and Improve the Canals to Promote Water Quality and Usability:**
 - Several projects have been completed or in the planning stages to improve canal water quality. The Town, in partnerships with the Center for the Inland Bays, DelDOT, the University of Delaware, and neighboring communities has created bio-retention areas around storm drains located in the Route 1 median. Grant monies were obtained through the Center for the Inland Bays, EPA and DelDOT to fund this project which included excavation of the bio-retention areas to capture runoff water before it enters the canal system. The areas were landscaped with native plantings and trees through a matching grant obtained

through the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forestry Service. The Town Community Enhancement Committee also budgeted money for plantings for the bio-retention areas. The Town also received a grant of \$45,000 through the Delaware Department of Transportation – Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP). This project created 11 rain gardens around the catch basins along the Rt. 1 walkway, planted 11 circle beds in the Rt. 1 medium, and landscaped the public area in front of the York Beach Mall. These areas were planted with native plantings and will greatly enhance filtration of storm water runoff before entering the canal system in South Bethany. The Town is exploring the possibility of doing a similar project around the catch basins on the east side of Rt. 1. The Town has also placed money in the FY 2013 budget and will seek grant monies to place a pilot “Diffuser System” in one of the canals in South Bethany. It is hoped that this system will aid in improving water quality by providing aeration which will facilitate decomposition of existing dead plant material “muck” and in turn reduce and/or limit future algae growth.

- **Maintain, Restore, and Improve Beach Appearance:**
 - Improved access walkways to the beach were completed in 2009. Most of the walkways were damaged during the February storms of 2010. Temporary repairs were made by the State of Delaware and the Town. The Town applied for and received a matching grant from the Delaware State Parks and Recreation to purchase 15 “Mobi-Mat” systems for the walkways to improve beach access. The beach walkways suffered minor damage from Hurricane Irene on August 27th and 28th. The Town made necessary repairs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Delaware completed beach replenishment during the winter months. This was to repair damage suffered during the nor-easter storms that occurred in early 2010. At this time, work on the walkways, handicap walkway, and placement of sand fencing continues and should be completed by July. The town continues to provide a full Beach Patrol staff consisting of certified lifeguards.

- **Provide High Quality Public Utilities to Town Residents:**
 - The Town continues to work with utility providers to enhance service to our residents. A Cable Consortium was formed with the Towns of Bethany Beach, Millville, and Ocean View to negotiate as a group a new cable franchise agreement for the individual Towns. This agreement should be signed in the near future. Sussex County has continued to improve the sanitary sewerage system that serves South Bethany. They have recently upgraded the four wet pumps at the stations located within the Town. They have also made improvements to some of the older sewerage lines in the town by re-lining and grouting them. There are plans to continue this project in other areas of the Town.

- **Maintain a Full-time, Year-round Police Department:**
 - The Town continues to maintain a full-time, year round police department and hires seasonal officers for parking enforcement and additional dispatchers for the summer season.

- **Improve Access to Emergency Health Care:**
 - The Town is a member of the Bethany Beach Ambulance Service Sponsors Committee. This committee consists of the Towns of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, South Bethany, and the private community of Sea Colony. Each Town assesses property owners and annual fee to support the ambulance service. The group meets quarterly with the Ambulance Service and the Bethany Beach Fire Department to review operations and to approve the annual budget. This service has greatly improved emergency response to the residents of the Town. The Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company also assists the Town in recertifying lifeguards for CPR, AED, and first aid training.

- **Provide Town Services in a Customer Friendly Manner:**
 - The Town continues to strive to provide Town services in a friendly and courteous manner to the residents. New services such as curb-side yard waste and posting of Mercantile License holders has been added to services provided.

 - The Town is currently in the process of completing the 5 year certification for the Community Rating System (CRS) which allows each resident with flood insurance to receive a 10% discount on their premium. This is a tremendous work effort by the Town staff that has a direct benefit to our residents. Information published by the Insurance Services Office indicated that participation in The CRS program saves the residents of South Bethany a combined yearly savings of \$83,405.00 on their flood insurance premiums. The CRS Coordinator for FEMA has visited the Town and the Town is awaiting the results of the compliance visit.

 - The Town has completed a 5 year recertification review for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Town has been in this program since 1976. A FEMA representative reviewed ordinances and various construction projects to ensure that the Town is in compliance with flood plain regulations.

2. Please highlight any significant accomplishments, development issues, trends or conditions since the plan was last adopted or amended that may either have enhanced or hindered the implementation of your plan. These accomplishments may be used in the annual report to the Governor.

- The Town has been involved with a partnership with the Center for Inland Bays, DelDOT, the University of Delaware and surrounding communities in a project to improve water quality. The Anchorage Canal Drainage Area Storm Water Retrofit Project created bio-retention areas for storm water runoff which prevent storm water along the route 1 corridor from directly entering the canal system in South Bethany. The project will filter storm water runoff from the communities of Sea Colony, Middlesex Beach and South Bethany through ground absorption. This was accomplished by excavating around the 13 catch basins in the Route 1 median and landscaping with native trees and plants. This project will assist in achieving the goal of improving water quality in the canal system of South Bethany and the goal of improving the appearance of the community. Grants for the projects came from various sources including DelDOT, the Center for the Inland Bays, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forestry Service and the Town of South Bethany. The tree planting and landscaping plan was developed with assistance from the University of Delaware.
- The Town received a grant in the amount of \$45,000.00 from the Delaware Department of Transportation – Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP). This funding was used to create 11 rain gardens along the Rt. 1 walkway. These rain gardens were constructed around the existing catch basins and were planted with native plants recommended by the University of Delaware. This will assist in filtration of storm water runoff before it enters the South Bethany Canal System. This project also consisted of placing native plantings in 11 circle beds that are located in the Rt. 1 median and complete landscaping of the public area at the York Beach Mall.
- The Town has received a \$25,000.00 grant from Sussex County for the South Bethany Police Department. This will assist in the goal of maintaining a year round full time Police Department.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control have completed the beach replenishment project which began in January. This estimated 8 million dollar project will achieve the goal of maintaining, restoring and improving the appearance of the beach in South Bethany. Restoration of the beach walkways should be completed by July.

- The Town of South Bethany along with the Towns of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island and the community of Sea Colony has approved the FY 2012 budget for the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company Ambulance Service. This budget also includes funding a reserve account for vehicle replacement for the service. This will continue the goal of providing access to emergency health care for our community.
 - In April 2011 the Town sent out a Comprehensive Plan Community Survey to its property owners. The survey was drafted by the Town of South Bethany's Planning Commission. The draft survey was reviewed by Martin Wollaston of the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration. The draft survey was then presented to the Town Council for review. The Town Council approved the survey in March 2011 and then sent the revised survey out to 1,317 property owners on March 22, 2011. There were 860 (65%) completed survey forms returned to Town Hall. The survey results have been posted on the Town's website and the Town continues to review the results and recommendations.
3. Are there any planning issues that the municipality is currently facing? Do you anticipate any comprehensive plan changes for which the Office of State Planning Coordination may be able to offer technical assistance? If yes, please describe below.

At this time, no assistance is anticipated.

4. Please help update our mailing list by supplying the following information:

Mayor: Kathy Jankowski e-mail address: mayor@southbethany.org

Town Manager: Melvin Cusick e-mail address: townmanager@southbethany.org

Planning Directory: NA e-mail address: NA

City Clerk: Dee Burbage e-mail address: townclerk@southbethany.org

Council/Commission Members:

Sue Callaway
Pat Voveris
George Junkin

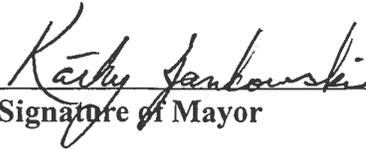
Al Rae
Jim Gross
Mark Damato

Planning Commission Members:

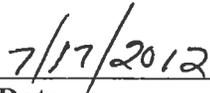
Richard Oliver, Chairman
David Wilson
John Stefani

Robert Johansen, Secretary
Kent Stephan

On behalf of the Town of South Bethany, I respectfully submit this comprehensive plan annual report to the Office of State Planning Coordination. The information contained in the report is correct and complete.



Signature of Mayor



Date

Kathy Jankowski

Printed Name of Mayor

*Development trends data is provided twice a year through the development trends data collection. Please contact the Office of State Planning Coordination with questions regarding development trends.