

## **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 7, 2014**

1. Please review the recommendations, goals and implementation of 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 through various projects. Landscaping projects have been added that improve the appearance of the Rt. 1 corridor. This includes landscaping in new bio-retention ponds on the east side of Rt. 1. This project will be described under Improvements to canals later in this document. The Town has also begun to upgrade all street signs with a different color scheme and added white weather protective vinyl sleeves on all street signs. The Community Enhancement Committee has continued its “Adopt a Canal End” program which allows residents to adopt a Town-owned street/canal end and landscape the area to improve the appearance and improve water absorption and prevent runoff into the canals. Of the 43 canal ends, a total of 26 have been adopted to date. The Town also received grants from the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forestry Service and the Sussex County Soil Conservation District to remove invasive phragmites growth in various drainage ditches within the Town.
  - A project to install solar street lanterns on Ocean Drive has begun. The project was funded for phase one and is complete. Also, it is planned to have local artists paintings displayed on the town-owned trash/recycling receptacles on Ocean Drive. Also, new “Beach Rules” signs were installed at the 17 beach walkways.
- **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 either been completed or are in the planning stages to improve canal water quality. The Town in partnership with the Center for Inland Bays, DelDOT, the University of Delaware, and neighboring communities has just completed the Anchorage Canal Drainage Area East Side Bio-retention project. This project

- included the excavation of 11 bio-retention areas on the east side of Rt. 1. The areas were then landscaped with native plants. This project will assist in capturing runoff water from Rt.1 and the surrounding areas allowing for more absorption before the water enters the canal system in South Bethany.
- The Town is working with the Center for Inland Bays on a project called “Dead-End Canal Bio-Enhancement Project”. This project proposes to install floating wetlands and oyster cages to determine if these techniques can be used to improve the water quality and aquatic habitat within the dead-end canals in South Bethany. The area selected for this project is the York Canal. Approximately 22 bushels of oysters (in 100 cages) and 8 floating wetlands planted with three different types of vegetation will be staged. Each floating wetland is to be 75 square feet in size. This is a two year research project at the end of which a final report will be developed which will document the effect of the treatments on water quality.
  - The Town is continuing to monitor its pilot “Diffused Air Aeration System” in the Petherton Canal. This project consists of 6 diffusers that were installed in April 2013. It is hoped that this system, through aeration, will increase the amount of dissolved oxygen in the waterway thereby improving ecological conditions and water quality. The Brandywine Canal is being used as the control canal so that comparisons can be made to see the overall effectiveness of the Diffuser System.
  - The Town has also performed several storm drain retrofit projects that will slow runoff water going into the canals and to allow more ground absorption. This is done by retrofitting the catch basin and in some cases installing a check valve at the discharge point.
  - The Town’s Water Quality Committee continues its volunteer monitoring for DO (dissolved oxygen) levels in various canals within the Town.
- **Maintain, Restore, and Improve Beach Appearance:**
    - In 2013, the Army Corps of Engineers began beach replenishment projects along the Delaware coast from Fenwick Island to Rehoboth Beach. This project called the “Coastal Storm Risk Management Project” was funded by Congress as part of the Hurricane Sandy recovery appropriations bill. This project rebuilt the destroyed dune system and dune crossovers and pumped approximately 476,000 cubic yards of sand as part of the Bethany Beach and South Bethany project. Dune grasses were also planted on the rebuilt dunes. The project followed the original 2007 beach construction template. This improved the dune crossing in South Bethany by making them easier to traverse. The Town continues to look at ways to improve beach access over the protective dune system such as the use of Mobi-Mats, handicap access, etc. The Town is limited as to what improvements it can make since the walkways are under state control.
    - The Town of South Bethany continues to provide a full professional Beach Patrol Staff consisting of well trained, certified lifeguards. Additional equipment such as a rescue ATV and digital radios have been great additions to the South Bethany Beach Patrol.

- **Provide High Quality Public Utilities to Town Residents:**
  - The Town continues to work with utility providers to enhance service to our residents. In 2013, a new cable franchise agreement was signed with Mediacom. This agreement was negotiated by a Cable Consortium consisting of the Towns of Bethany Beach, Millville, and Ocean View with the assistance of the Cohen Law Group which specializes in cable franchise agreements. The agreement reduces the term of the agreement from the previous 15 year term to a 7 year term. It also outlines steps for improved customer relations by Mediacom.
  - Sussex County which owns and maintains the sanitary sewerage system in Town continues to make improvements to some of the older sewerage lines within the Town by re-lining and grouting them. There are also plans to make repairs and upgrades to the lift station located at Rt. 1 and Anchorage Drive.
- **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. With the pending retirement of the Chief of Police and one Lieutenant in July, the Town has hired a part time certified officer to fill the gap until plans are made to fill the full time positions.
- **Improve Access to Emergency Health Care:**
  - The Town continues to participate in the Bethany Beach Ambulance 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 which is operated by the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department. The ambulance service is staffed by paid Delaware certified Emergency Medical Technicians with support from volunteer staff from the Bethany Beach Fire Department. This service has greatly improved emergency response to the residents and visitors of the Town. The service added an additional ambulance to the fleet this year which now has three ambulances to serve the area.
  - The Town has for several years now required all full time employees to be trained and certified in CPR and AED. Also, a new rescue ATV (all-terrain vehicle) was purchased for the South Bethany Beach Patrol to assist in getting victims off of the beach after an injury. The South Bethany Beach Patrol also acquired two new AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillators). Sussex County provided financial assistance for both of these purchases.

- **Provide Town Services in a Customer Friendly Manner:**

The Town continues to strive to provide Town services in a friendly and courteous manner to residents and visitors. This year, the Town has begun to accept credit card payments for parking permits, building permits, mercantile licenses, taxes, etc. This has added an additional convenience for our residents and guests.

The Town continuously updates the Town website to keep it current. Periodic news email updates are also sent out to residents to keep them informed of upcoming events, meetings, and emergency storm events.

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.

- In June of 2013 the Town formed the South Bethany Sea Level Rise & Storm Surge Committee. The mission statement of the committee is as follows: “Given the increasing information about future concerns that coastal communities like South Bethany may face from Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge, as demonstrated by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012, the SLR & SS Committee will:
  - Conduct a SLR & SS Vulnerability Assessment that will identify property elevations, infrastructure and public spaces that may be at risk for SRL & SS.
  - Gather relevant data and expertise to understand the possible hazards and costs associated with SLR & SS.
  - Identify potential, evaluate and recommend adaptation options;
  - Develop a response based on information and research;

with the overall goal being the future protection of both the property owners’ and the Town’s assets.”

- The Town received matching grant monies from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$9,200.00 to establish an elevation base to assist in further defining protection and accommodation options for SLR adaptation strategies including conducting center line surveys along 46 road corridors and associated bulkheads and catch basins. This work was completed and now additional work will be performed east of Rt. 1 in areas not covered by the previous project.
- The Town continues its 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 Rt. 1 corridor from directly entering the canal system in South Bethany. This was reported in the update last year. This year, 11 new bio-retention areas with associated landscaping were added on the east side of Rt. 1.

- The Town received a \$25,000.00 grant from Sussex County for the South Bethany Police Department. This year, this money will be used to equip 2 new police vehicles that are currently on order through the State of Delaware Fleet Services Contract.
  - The Town received grants totaling \$2,900.00 from Sussex County for the South Bethany Beach Patrol. This money was used to assist in the purchase of a rescue ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) and two AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillators) for the Beach Patrol.
  - The Town received a grant from the Delaware Forest Service in the amount of \$7,200.00 and a grant from the Sussex Soil Conservation District in the amount of \$5,000.00 to clean out existing drainage ditches behind Town Hall and surrounding properties in an effort to control invasive phragmites vegetation.
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.

No assistance anticipated at this time.

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

Mayor:	<u>Pat Voveris</u>	e-mail address:	<u>patvoveris@gmail.com</u>
Town Manager:	<u>Melvin Cusick</u>	e-mail address:	<u>townmanager@southbethany.org</u>
Planning Directory:	<u>NA</u>	e-mail address:	<u>NA</u>
City Clerk:	<u>Dee Burbage</u>	e-mail address:	<u>townclerk@southbethany.org</u>

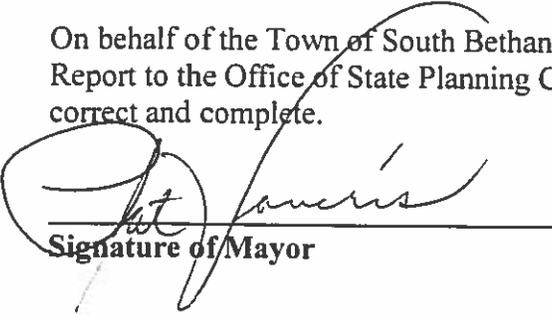
**Council/Commission Members:**

Sue Callaway	Al Rae	George Junkin
Tim Saxton	Jim Gross	Tony Caputo

**Planning Commission Members:**

Richard Oliver, Chairman	John Whitney	Joe Conway
David Wilson	Philip Arbaugh	John Stefani

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.

  
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Signature of Mayor

7-7-14  
Date

Pat Voveris  
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.