

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 17, 2013

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 has improved 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 Rt. 1 corridor which will be described under accomplishments have been completed. Another project is planned for the east side of north bound Rt. 1. 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. Of 43 canal ends, a total of 20 have been adopted thus far.
- **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 are 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 Rt. 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 median, 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 has also received a grant to do a similar project around the catch basins on the east side of north bound Rt. 1. This project is expected to start in the near future.

The Town also budgeted for a “Diffused Air Aeration System” to be installed in the Petherton Canal. This pilot project consisting of 6 diffusers was installed in April of this year. 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 will be used as the control canal so that comparisons can be made to see the overall effectiveness of the Diffuser System.

- **Maintain, Restore, and Improve Beach Appearance:**

- The storm known as Hurricane Sandy/Superstorm Sandy that brushed the coast of Delaware caused some beach erosion and damage to the dune system and the beach walkways. Temporary repairs are currently under way by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. A major beach and dune replenishment project is planned for late summer and fall of 2013. The Army Corps of Engineers will be contracting for this work with funding from the Hurricane Sandy recovery appropriations from Congress. The Town continues to look at ways to improve beach access over the protective dune system through improvements to the beach walkways. The Town of South Bethany 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 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. 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. The Town’s website has recently been enhanced to be more user friendly and appealing with a slide show which includes photographs of the many amenities that the town has to offer.

 - The Town has completed the process of the 5 year certification for the Community Rating System (CRS). The town has maintained a CRS Classification of 8 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 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 Rt. 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 Rt. 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 has received funding by Congress from the Hurricane Sandy recovery appropriation to replenish Delaware beaches from Lewes to Fenwick Island. This means that during the summer and fall of 2013, the beach and dune system in South Bethany will be restored to its original 2007 construction footprint. Temporary repairs for the summer season are currently under way.
 - The Town of South Bethany along with the Towns of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island and the community of Sea Colony continue their cooperative agreement with the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company Ambulance Service. Due to the increase in the number of calls for the service, the group recently approved the purchase of a 3rd ambulance. It is anticipated that this new unit will be in service sometime in the fall of 2013. This will continue the goal of providing access to emergency health care for our community.

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: mayorsouthbethany@hotmail.com

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

Planning Director: NA e-mail address: NA

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

Council/Commission Members:

Sue Callaway

Al Rae

George Junkin

Pat Voveris

Jim Gross

Tony Caputo

Planning Commission Members:

Richard Oliver, Chairman

Linda Lewis

Joe Conway

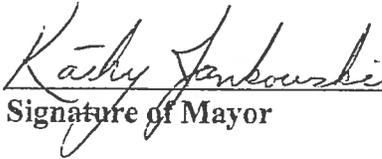
David Wilson

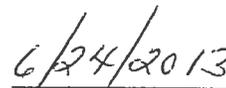
Philip Arbaugh

Keith Krenz

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.


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.