

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY**  
**SLR & SS Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, April 29, 2016 at 1:30 PM**  
**Location: South Bethany Town Hall**

1. Call meeting to order	George Junkin
2. Approve minutes	George Junkin
3. Discuss Ram's Recommendations	All
4. What is next for SLR & SS Committee	All
5. What else should we be doing?	All
6. Adjourn	

**Agenda Item 1.** – George Junkin called the meeting to order at 1:30. Committee members present were Jim Gross, Dave Wilson, Dick Oliver and George Junkin. Guests were Jack Whitney from the Planning Commission and Mike Powell from DNREC.

**Agenda Item 2.** – Approval of Minutes

Jim Gross made a motion to approve the minutes. Dick Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 3.** – Discuss Ram’s Recommendations

- The recommendations are copied below. Ram’s complete report is located on the Town’s web site on the SLR&SS Committee page. [Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment 160316-Final.pdf](#)

<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The analysis presented in this memorandum should provide a good planning-level tool for the Town to begin considering prioritization of its resources for SLR adaptation. It should be noted that the impact of storm surge, nuisance flooding, and trigger points for implementation is not included in these analyses. From a review of the results (Figures 1 through 12), it is evident that the following steps are prudent next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow bulkheads to be raised by property owners in areas showing high vulnerability to SLR</li> <li>• Install backflow preventers on Town stormwater outfalls</li> <li>• Raise streets levels in areas showing high vulnerability to SLR</li> <li>• Raise ground-mounted transformers that are deemed vulnerable.</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to these steps, the Town should also consider developing a specific SLR adaptation plan. Such a plan would include an evaluation of the potential for combined SLR and storm surge impacts, even if conceptually done, using existing Federal Emergency Management Agency and USACE models. Implementation trigger points and timing, as well as other options for potential coastal resiliency, could be evaluated as part of such a future study. This could include specific resiliency measures such as perimeter flood control berms, where applicable, and wetlands enhancement (on the west side of the Town) to provide improved resiliency. There are several grants from federal agencies that the Town could apply for, to implement such measures; however, the specific resiliency measures and a timeline for these remain to be developed. We strongly recommend that the Town implement a plan to develop such an adaptation plan to advance the findings of this study, and put them into practice.</p>
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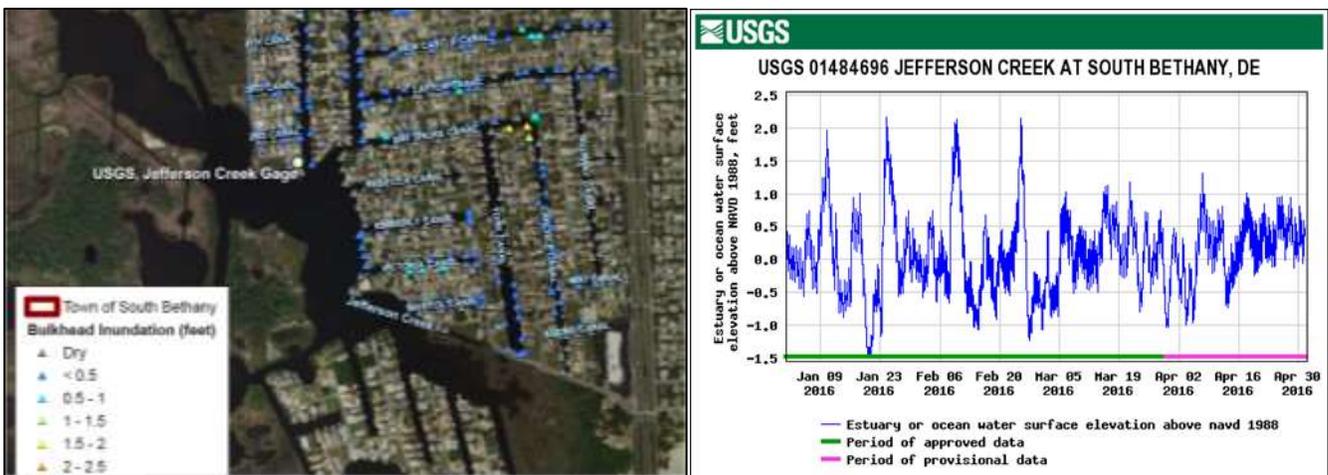
- The SLR&SS Committee members were in unanimous support of all of Ram’s recommendations.
- Dick reported that the planning commission intended to include the recommendations in the development plan that they were preparing.

#### Agenda Item 4. – What is next for the SLR&SS Committee?

- George reported that he would no longer be a member of the Town Council after June 1 and that he would no longer be the chair of the SLR&SS Committee. He said that he would still be willing to be a member of the committee.
- George asked if anyone knew of a person willing to be the chair. There was no response to the question.
- There were discussions relative to incorporating the SLR&SS planning tasks under the Planning Commission. Dick Oliver, the chair of the Planning Commission, saw no problems with this. In fact three of the people in attendance (Dick Oliver, Dave Wilson and Jack Whitney) are already members of the Planning Commission. George said that he could still support the SLR&SS issues without having to be a member of the Planning Commission.
- George passed out the forms required to be filled out for participation in the SLR&SS Committee. George Junkin, Dave Wilson, Jim Gross and Dick Oliver completed and turned in the forms.

#### Agenda Item 5. – What Else Should We Be Doing?

- The highest priority at this time is to petition the Town to allow homeowners to raise their bulkheads. Many homeowners have recently needed to replace their bulkheads. They wanted them to be higher but the Town Code would not allow it. We need to help out these homeowners.



- The above chart from the Anchor report is for a water level of 2.03 feet NAVD. It shows that many bulkheads are flooded when the water level is 2.03 feet NAVD. The above chart from the Jefferson Creek Tide Gage shows that three times in the last four months the nuisance flooding was at a level greater than 2.1 feet NAVD, thus flooding all the bulkheads shown in blue, light blue, light green, and yellow above.
- There was significant discussion on what the SLR&SS Committee's recommendations should be. At the 5/27/2016 meeting the committee had recommended, "Homeowners should have an

option to increase their bulkheads up to one (1) foot above the road adjacent to their lot.” This was presented at the July 10, 2015 Town Council Meeting. Council elected not to go forward with it at this time and to wait until the grant study was complete. Jack Whitney suggested that the homeowners be allowed to raise their bulkheads to 3.0 NAVD, based on the recent tide data and the recently completed grant study that shows that SLR is projected to rise 0.7 to 1.7 feet by 2065.

- The committee should request Ram Mohan to give a presentation to Council on the *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Report* that has recently been completed by Anchor QEA, LLC.
- The committee should then have a public outreach meeting with the CWQC in July or August.
- Continue to install check valves in low lying storm drains.
- Dick Oliver should research the IPA program looking for available grants. It was suggested that Philip Barns could be a resource.
- There should be an effort to make the “Building Permit” process to not include every little item that seems now to be included with the current interpretations in the flood plain section of the code.
  - Mike Powell suggested that we might be interpreting the words more strictly than required. He suggested that we might be able to develop code words that would say some items need not be included.
  - The SLR&SS Committee suggested that we get the C and C Committee to try to suggest appropriate words.
  - Mike said that whatever words we come up with must be approved by DNREC.
  - Jim Gross volunteered to look at the FEMA words to assess if there was room to maneuver.
  - It was pointed out that the non-flood plain section of the code is not consistent with the rest of the code relative to building permits.
  - Mike reported that he believed that Greg Williams (DNREC) has been in contact with Joe Hinks recently relative to the building permit issue. Mike did not know the contents of those discussions.

**Agenda Item 6. – Adjourn** At 2:45 Jim Gross made a motion to adjourn. Dick Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After the meeting Mike Powell called Greg Williams (DNREC). Mike then conveyed to George Junkin that FEMA did not want the code to change. Greg suggested that we could write a policy that interprets the code so that a permit would not be required for “minor items”. The policy would have to be approved by DNREC.