

TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 12, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Voveris called the February 12, 2016, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Council Members George Junkin, Tim Saxton, Wayne Schrader, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Pat Voveris; Town Manager Melvin Cusick; Chief Troy Crowson; and Finance Director Renee McDorman

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Council Member Sue Callaway

A motion was made by Councilman Saxton, seconded by Councilman Schrader, to amend the agenda to remove Item IX (Discussion and Possible Vote on the Town of South Bethany Schedule of Fees) because the information has not yet been given to the Council. The motion was unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- **Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2015** – A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson, to accept the December 11, 2015, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.
- **Town Council Emergency Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2016** – A motion was made by Councilman Schrader, seconded by Councilman Saxton, to accept the January 20, 2016, Town Council Emergency Meeting Minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON A PROPERTY OWNER'S REQUEST TO USE THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM ON MAY 5 FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Carolyn Marcello (8 S. 9th St.) – Stated that the National Day of Prayer is held all over the country and the main one is in Washington D.C. at the Cannon Building. Ms. Marcello said it is a wonderful time of religious leaders as well as social leaders to come together to pray for our nation.

Motion and Vote: After a discussion as to whether or not it was necessary for Council to vote on this request due to the Guidelines for Usage of Town Hall Facilities by South Bethany Property Owners and Residents which was approved by Council on June 25, 2015, a motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilman Weisgerber, to approve the property owner's request to use the Council Meeting Room on May 5 for the National Day of Prayer. The motion was unanimously carried.

ROADWAY SAFETY ISSUES BETWEEN KENT AVENUE AND ROUTE 1 – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION BY SOUTH BETHANY PROPERTY OWNER JAY HEADMAN

South Bethany Property Owner Jay Headman thanked the Town Council for putting this item on the meeting agenda. Mr. Headman stated that also in attendance from his group were Dennis Roberts, Bob Smith, and Mike Trentadue. Group members Gary Bergman and George Rosenberg were unable to attend.

Mr. Headman stated that they are a group of property owners who are representing the property owners who live in Cat Hill and along the roads between Route 1 and Kent Ave. Mr. Headman said all of the recommendations the group will share with Council are based on responses from these property owners that completed a feedback form. The group sent the form by email and then mailed the form to those property owners who did not have an email address. The group received 64 responses. Mr. Headman said the group is here at this meeting for the following: 1) Provide the Council with an understanding of what the group's concerns are, 2) Share data and information the group obtained from research and discussion with traffic engineers and consultants, and 3) Present both intermediate and longer term recommendations to the Council to improve the safety for those who use the roads between Route 1 and Kent Ave. Mr. Headman said many of these safety issues that the group will discuss have been ongoing for many years, and the group thanks the Town for putting in place measures to make the roads safer by putting in speed humps and stop signs. Mr. Headman said the group is here tonight to say things have changed dramatically the last few years due to the increased volume using the roads especially during the summer season. It is clear to the group this volume will continue to increase as more and more houses are built to the west of the town. This volume increase has exasperated the long standing issues of traffic going over the posted speed limit and rolling through stop signs. These issues have created a very unsafe situation for those who walk, run, or bike on these roads. Mr. Headman stated that at the end of their presentation the group will give the Council letters from the community that share their concerns and experiences regarding the safety of these roads. Mr. Headman said the letters describe the many near misses and accidents that they have witnessed ranging from being hit by a moving car, seeing a bicyclist hit by a car, having a car nearly run over their grandchild, and a car going into the ditch at Cattail and Black Gum. Mr. Headman said the good news is no one was injured – our town has been lucky so far yet how long will that last. Mr. Headman said our community doesn't want to wait until someone gets seriously injured before the Town implements some additional safety measures. To have children, grandchildren, and adults sharing a road with this high volume of traffic with many cars traveling over the posted speed limit makes for a very dangerous situation. Through the group's research and discussions with traffic engineers and consultants, the group believes the recommendations are thoughtful and reasonable and will contribute to making these roads safer for pedestrians and vehicles. Tonight the group is not asking the Council to make any decisions. The group wants the Council to have an opportunity to hear the information and recommendations and ask questions at the conclusion of the presentation. Also the group asks the Council to discuss these recommendations at its March Town Council Workshop so that decisions can be made about these recommended traffic measures so that they could be in place by the beginning of this summer season. Mr. Headman showed the Cat Hill area on a map in the meeting room. Mr. Headman said when Cat Hill was developed a selling point was its windy narrow roads for people to walk to the beach and enjoy the pines and the quietness and the tranquility (the group had a brochure from the time of development).

Mr. Headman stated that Cat Hill was developed in 1985 for 144 homes with the first house built in 1986, and the roads were not put in until 1986. There were not 100 homes in Cat Hill until around 2000. Mr. Headman said it is important to realize that Cat Hill is basically a new development and it is the last major development in South Bethany. Mr. Headman stated that the intersection at Tamarack Dr. and Canal Dr. used to be a very minor intersection and now it is one of the most major intersections in South Bethany. The group is asking the Town to look at that intersection because they are concerned about the safety of that area.

Mr. Headman started the PowerPoint Presentation titled "Roadway Safety issues between Kent Ave and Route 1" which began with a video made in the fall by South Bethany Property Owner and Videographer George Rosenberg. Following are examples of still frames from the video and the video's oral narration.



Video's Oral Narration: "My wife and I first bought in South Bethany 15 years ago and moved to our home on Black Gum Drive full time in 2010. We are walkers and walking to the wetlands or to the beach almost every day all year round was a major attraction. We found most drivers are courteous but their speed, especially around curves, often means we must be constantly vigilant. I now wave at everyone not just to be friendly but to be sure they see us. We know our roads are not just for South Bethany residents but also serve as a short cut between Kent Ave. and Route 1. Even before GPS began routing traffic through our streets, the Town realized that there were safety issues and installed speed humps and stop signs. They also restricted Black Gum Dr. on summer mornings to reduce cut through drivers. These measures really helped, but over time the speed humps have become lower as a result of repaving and the morning closing of Black Gum has been shortened. And given today's traffic it seems the placement and number of stop signs has become insufficient. This region is really growing, and it is becoming harder and harder to walk safely in Cat Hill. We are asking the Town to help us once again make our roads safer for all of us to walk, bike, and enjoy."

Current State of Route

- South Bethany roads are owned and maintained by the town
 - Roadway funds from State
- Route is a **major** through route from Route 1 to Kent Ave
- High volume of pedestrians and non-vehicular traffic
- Topography and road design are dangerous
 - many sightlines exceed safe stopping distances... exiting from driveways is dangerous
- Vehicular traffic (calc) → **20,070** vehicles / month May; **10,153** in Nov
- Current perception "there is **not** a speed problem"
 - **Fact** as much as **46%** vehicular traffic travel **above** posted speed
 - **Fact** All current speed humps measure **below** DelDOT standards in one of the following : height / length / distance between
 - Current traffic calming measures **ineffective in producing a safe speed**

South Bethany Electronic Data

Mr. Headman made the following points:

- The Town receives funding from the State through MSA funding.
- The Town has the power to adopt and enforce such ordinances that regulate traffic on all of its streets within the town.
- The route is a major through route from Route 1 to Kent Ave. and it has gotten worse due to many reasons – one being growth to the west and another being the use of the apps on smartphones.
- If someone wants to get to McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts, or go south on Route 1 the driver has three choices: 1) The route through Cat Hill, 2) The route through Sea Colony with its eight speed bumps and four stop signs, or 3) take Jefferson Bridge Road. Mr. Headman asked, "Which road would you take?"
- Referring to Vehicular traffic (calc) 20,070 vehicles/month May; 10,153 in Nov., Mr. Headman said the group wants to thank Chief Crowson and the Police Department for providing them with the data and more importantly for purchasing the machine that provides the data.

Traffic monitoring results Black Gum

Dates	# Vehicles	# > 20 mph	Highest mph	Monthly (calc)
5/27 - 6/9	8,697	3920 (45%)	38	20,700
8/17 - 9/16	12,013	3396 (28%)	39	11,640
11/10 - 11/17	2,369	1096 (46%)	43	10,153

Data from South Bethany electronic speed monitors

Vehicle stopping distance is a critical factor in pedestrian and vehicular safety

Braking/Stopping Distances

MPH	Ft./Sec.	Braking Deceleration Distance	Perception Reaction Distance	Total Stopping Distance	Increase compared to speed limit
10	14.7	5	22	27	N/A
15	22	11	33	44	N/A
20	29.3	19	44	63	N/A
25	36	30	55	85	35%
30	44	43	66	109	73%
35	51.3	59	77	136	116%
40	58.7	76	88	164	160%

1. 66% of Stopping distance comes from seeing object and reacting

2. Diminished line of sight will increase this number

Note the dramatic increase in stopping distances as speeds rise above 20 mph (speed limit)...

Data from CSG Network.com

Why slow speed down ????????

Slower cars do save lives

Vehicular Speed	Risk of serious pedestrian injury	Risk of fatality
16 MPH	10 %	
23 MPH	25 %	10 %
31 MPH	50%	25 %

8 mph speed reduction = 60 % decrease in fatalities

Data from AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety 2011

An Effective Traffic Calming Device

SPEED HUMPS

Factors for effectiveness

- **Height of hump** – measured at the center of the travel lane
- **Length of speed Hump** – measured from where front wheels of vehicles touch to where the rear wheels leave
- **Distance between speed humps**

Note: Speed humps should be installed in a series to create ongoing traffic calming

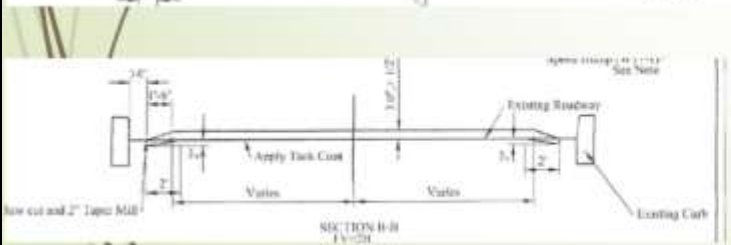
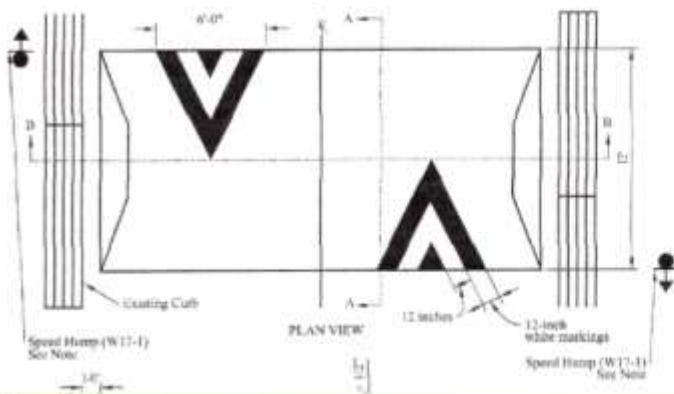
Lets examine these factors



DeIDOT Standard for Speed Humps 3 inches in height

DeIDOT Standards from
(DeIDOT Traffic Calming
Manual)

South Bethany Speed Humps



Location	Rise (in)	% of Recommended
Black Gum SB	1.5	50%
Black Gum NB	2.25	75%
Black Gum SB	1.25	42%
Black Gum NB	3	100%
Cattail EB	1.62	54%
Cattail WB	1.75	58%
Tamarack EB	1.5	50%
Tamarack WB	2	67%
Tamarack EB	1.75	58%
Tamarack WB	0.5	17%
Canal NB	2.75	92%
Canal SB	1.75	58%

Fully meets

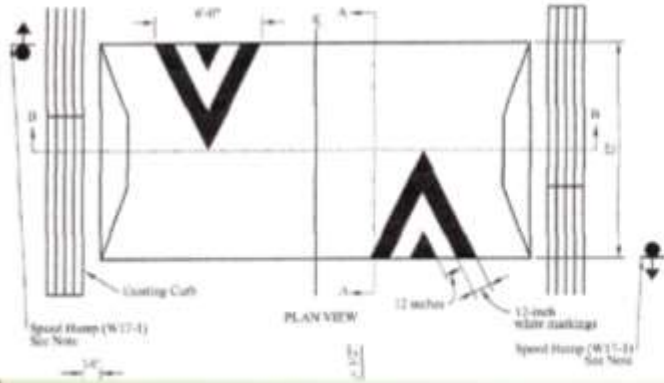
Marginally meets

Fails to meet

Increased length of Speed Hump reduces effectiveness

DelDOT Standard

South Bethany Speed Humps



Location	Length ft	% of Recommended
Black Gum 1	13.5	88%
Black Gum 2	14	83%
Cattail	11	109%
Tamarack 1	8	150%
Tamarack 2	7.5	160%
Canal	14.5	82%

Fully meets

Marginally meets

Fails to meet

Increased distance between Speed Humps reduces effectiveness

Effective distance between speed humps → 250 ft

Location	Distance feet	% of Effectiveness
From Kent to Black Gum 1	352	71%
From Black Gum 1 to Black Gum 2	471	53%
From Black Gum 2 to stop sign @ Cattail	271	84%
From Stop Sign @ Cattail to Speed Hump	241	103%
From Cattail Speed Hump to stop sign @ Tamarack	286	87%
From Stop sign @ Tamarack to Tamarack 1	337	74%
From Tamarack 1 to Tamarack 2	320	78%
From Tamarack 2 to Stop Sign @ Canal	292	85%
From stop sign @ Canal to Speed Hump	230	108%
From Speed Hump @ Canal to stop sign @ Russell	221	113%

Fully meets

Marginally meets

Fails to meet

All Speed Humps are deficient in at least one category contributing to ineffectiveness

Location	Height in	Length ft	Distance ft
Black Gum 1	1.5	13.5	352
Black Gum 2	1.25	14	471
Cattail	1.62	11	241
Tamarack 1	1.5	8	337
Tamarack 2	1.75	7.5	320
Canal	2.75	14.5	230

Legend:

- Fully meets (Green)
- Marginally meets (Yellow)
- Fails to meet (Red)

- ### Traffic Calming Measures which increase Safety
- Speed Limits
 - Effective Speed Humps *Collins Av, Oakwood Av, Bethany Beach*
 - Electronic Speed monitor *Woodland Av Oceanview*
 - Stop Signs
 - Width of vehicular lanes *Sea Colony*
 - Traffic restrictions
 - Enforcement *Woodland Av, Central Av, Oceanview; Kent Av Bethany*

Regarding Electronic Speed Monitors, Mr. Headman thanked the Mayor, the Chief, and the Town Manager for looking into working with the State legislatures to see if the Town can get those for those streets.

- ### Recommendations - Immediate
- Improve current measures to achieve a safe speed at or below posted speed limit
- Upgrade existing humps to 4" in height → speeds between 15-20 mph
 - Install additional rubber speed humps/cushions where distance > 250 feet
 - Install 3 way stop sign(s) at the intersection of Canal and Tamarack
 - Install electronic flashing speed monitor(s) with recorders – location TBD
 - Install additional calming devices at dangerous curves and limited sight areas
 - Upgrade all current Cat Hill roadways to replicate Evergreen Rd.
 - Double yellow center line
 - White line @ each curbside 10 ft from center
 - Extension of traffic restriction hours
 - Improved police presence and enforcement of current stop signs and Speed limits



Recommendations – Longer Term

- Contract study from Traffic Engineering firm to address safety concerns for current and future traffic volume through South Bethany
- Continued monitoring of speed and volume data from electronic sources – apply measures to maintain safety.
- Develop effective options to mitigate traffic volume as exponential growth in surrounding areas continues.

~5,500 additional homes approved in neighboring areas

What will the future bring ???

Development Name	# of Housing Units
Beach Club (Muddy Neck)	300
Berzins @ Double Bridges	50
Bishop Landing (Windmill)	441
Dove Landing (across from Bishop's)	300
Estuary (Camp Barnes)	739
H&D Subdivision (Beaver Dam)	57
Lighthipe (behind Beach Club)	168
Millville by the Sea (Burbage)	3000
Reserves (Woodland Ave)	173
Silver woods (Beaver Dam)	118
Woodlands (Double Bridges)	88
Preserve (Double Bridges)	100
TOTAL	5,534

Current approved housing units within neighboring area

A member of Mr. Headman's group stated that all of the people in the developments above are going to be looking for the quickest way to Route 1. Referring to the above slide, group member Dennis Roberts said another thing to consider is that it doesn't necessarily mean that there is going to be 6,000 more cars – there could be four cars in a household. Mr. Headman said this dramatic increase in housing will have major implications on everything South Bethany has to offer.

Mr. Headman concluded the presentation saying the group feels these roads need more safety measures put in place and the group is asking Council for help. Mr. Headman thanked the Council for listening.

Group member Dennis Roberts raised the following points:

- People drive with handheld phones and people text while they are driving.
- Mr. Roberts has to back into his driveway on Canal Dr. in order to be able to get out of his driveway due to blind spots, and in the summer cars on both sides become irritated and honk their horns, shout obscenities, and throw hand gestures at him. Mr. Roberts believes other houses have similar problems, especially houses that are near a corner or a bend in the road.

Mayor Voveris thanked Mr. Headman and his group for the presentation and the information. Mayor Voveris said the information is not shocking. She said the volume is certainly on the increase. Mayor Voveris said it is a way of life not just for South Bethany but for many communities throughout the country. Mayor Voveris stated the following to address Mr. Headman's specific issues:

- Four electronic speed monitoring signs will be procured with funds contributed by Senator Hocker and Representative Gray from the Delaware Department of Transportation Community Transportation Fund (CTF). The Town Manager stated that once DeIDOT executes the agreement the Town will be allowed to purchase and install them. The Town Manager said two of them will go in Cat Hill, one will be at the entrance to Evergreen Road, and the Chief of Police has requested one on York Road.
- The Town Manager, Chief of Police, and Mayor Voveris have met with DeIDOT a number of times and studied the speed bump issue. Using the 250 ft. measurement, another speed bump can be added at 420 Black Gum Drive which is at a blind spot. Mayor Voveris said she still has to bring this information to Council. Mayor Voveris said the idea would be that she would ask Council for approval to survey the owners on Black Gum Drive so that the Town would have a majority agreement to do something like that. Mayor Voveris said it is a major investment for the Town. The Town Manager said that the Town just got a precursory estimate of over \$2,000 for putting in one speed bump.
- The Town is talking to DeIDOT about doing a turn study on Tamarack Dr. and Canal Dr. Chief Crowson said the Town is working on getting the turn study in place. Chief Crowson added that doing a turn study now is not going to reflect the same results as doing it in the busy season. Mayor Voveris said the study should be done when it is busy otherwise the study will give a false read. Mr. Headman asked if the Town has agreed to do the study. Mayor Voveris said the Town just started talking to DeIDOT, but she, Chief Crowson, and the Town Manager support doing the study. Councilman Schrader asked if DeIDOT has committed to doing the study. Mayor Voveris said they will do whatever the Town is asking them to do. Mayor Voveris said the Town has asked DeIDOT to do a turn study at the intersection of Canal Dr. and Tamarack Dr.
- In March Council will be researching and finding more information out regarding the 2015 Community Survey. The comments regarding Cat Hill will be one of the assignments. Council will discuss how the Town might remedy the issue.
- This issue will be put on the schedule for Council discussion in March. Mayor Voveris said she does not know if it will be on the March 11, 2016, Town Council Regular Meeting Agenda or the March 24, 2016, Town Council Budget Workshop Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Voveris asked the Council if they had questions for Mr. Headman. Councilman Schrader said he thinks of the problem in Cat Hill as much in terms of traffic volume as he does speeding. Councilman Schrader said he is not sure any of the measures talked about are ultimately going to reduce the volume of traffic to where it feels safer. Councilman Schrader thinks the Town ought to be thinking about measures at the Kent Ave/Black Gum Dr. entrance of Cat Hill such as expanding the use of the barricade, installing a gate, or ultimately if the problem is ghastly and a barricade or gate does not solve the problem, Council has to think about or at least explore

turning it into a cul-de-sac. Councilman Junkin said after listening to Mr. Headman's presentation the only solution is to close the road. Councilman Schrader asked if closing the road would cause the Town to lose State money. Councilman Junkin said no but a gate would cause the Town to lose State money. Councilman Schrader sought confirmation that if it is turned into a cul-de-sac the Town is still going to get State money. The Town Manager said a cul-de-sac would make it a non through road but it is still for public use. The Town Manager said the question is going to be if there is enough right-of-way at the intersection of Kent Ave. and Black Gum Dr. to build a cul-de-sac to specifications to allow fire trucks and garbage trucks to turn around.

Mayor Voveris said one idea, which is controversial, is to make the road one way going out which would eliminate more than half the traffic coming into Cat Hill.

Councilman Weisgerber asked Mr. Headman if he had a feel for whether or not the owners of the 144 properties in Cat Hill would be in favor of closing the road or making the road one-way. Mr. Headman said the group did not ask that question on their feedback form to the property owners in Cat Hill.

Referring to the Town adding another speed hump, Mr. Roberts stated that he thinks that if the existing speed humps do not meet the minimum standards of DelDOT, the existing speed humps are non-existent. Mr. Roberts said if a speed hump does not meet the standard it is a fail. Mayor Voveris said if the existing speed humps do not meet the standard they need to be fixed. Mayor Voveris said these are all things the Town has to look at.

Mayor Voveris said there is a long list and the Town needs to be very organized about approaching the issue. Mayor Voveris said she does not want to approach the issue by piecemeal. Mayor Voveris said the Town needs to look at pros and cons, timeliness, and feasibility. Putting a Band-Aid on a mortal wound does not make sense, but by the same token there could be stop gap measures. Something has to start somewhere. Mr. Headman said that is why the group came to Council – the group wanted Council to hear the presentation and think about it.

Mayor Voveris said Council will be working on this.

PROPERTY OWNERS' PARTICIPATION

- Joanne Wesolowski (421 Tamarack Dr.) – In support of Mr. Headman's presentation, told Council of her concerns and experiences regarding traffic in Cat Hill.
- Steve Chantler (422 Tamarack Dr.) – In support of Mr. Headman's presentation, told Council of his concerns and experiences regarding traffic in Cat Hill. Mr. Chantler stated that he is not sure that adding a speed hump is a solution.
- Barbara Lazzati (119 Canal Dr.) – In support of Mr. Headman's presentation, told Council of her concerns and experiences regarding traffic at the corner of Tamarack Dr. and Canal Dr. Ms. Lazzati gave an emotional recount of an incident when a car made a right turn onto Canal Dr. at a very high speed and swerved onto her property where her granddaughter had been playing moments before. The car crushed the toys her granddaughter had been playing with and the car continued on. Ms. Lazzati said this goes to the point of a three way stop at the intersection of Canal Dr. and Tamarack Dr. Ms. Lazzati also stated that the speed humps on Tamarack Dr. do little to nothing to slow people down.
- John Lazzati (119 Canal Dr.) – In support of Mr. Headman's presentation, told Council of his concerns and experiences regarding traffic in Cat Hill.

- Sandi Roberts (107 Canal Dr.) – Read the following statement: "I am aware that there are people in town who have voiced opposition to Council's recent decision to spend Town money on a possible FEMA challenge of the FEMA flood elevations for the oceanfront properties. And my understanding is that the argument that those people are using is that Town funds shouldn't be spent for something that is benefitting such a small number of people. My concern is that people could use that same logic with this issue because Cat Hill is such a small portion of the Town of South Bethany. The people could say Council shouldn't be spending town money to investigate reducing the volume and the speed of traffic through Cat Hill when it is just a small part of the Town. So I would like to remind Council and remind everybody who is sitting here tonight that whether we own a piece of property on the oceanfront, on the ocean side, on the canal side, or in Cat Hill, what we all have in common is that we are all South Bethany. And as you all move forward with your discussion and in light of the information that has been shared this evening, I really hope that you will remain mindful of this thought. Anything that improves the quality of life in this town, that makes South Bethany a place where people want to live, to buy a piece of property, to own a second home, or to come on vacation really benefits all of us not just some of us."
- Judy Stack (418 Black Gum Dr.) – In support of Mr. Headman's presentation, told Council of her concerns and experiences regarding traffic in Cat Hill. Ms. Stack believes extending the hours of the barricade is a great short stop gap that is cost efficient and could be done this summer.
- Barb Wise (406 Tamarack Dr.) – Referring to the electronic speed monitoring signs, Ms. Wise said she thinks they are hideous and she has a problem with having them in front of her house. Ms. Wise suggested that the people who want the electronic signs should have them placed in front of their house. Owner Bob Smith said the electronic sign could be placed at his house. Regarding making the road one way, Ms. Wise said as a year round resident it is inconvenient to not be able to access both sides of the community. Ms. Wise said people bought their homes and there were no sidewalks – it is a road and it is meant for cars. Ms. Wise said what attracted her to the community was the natural aspect of Cat Hill and how pretty it is. Ms. Wise said she is opposed to more signs. Ms. Wise spoke in support of extending the hours of the barricade back to what it was previously, and she spoke in support of a three way stop sign at the intersection of Tamarack Dr. and Canal Dr. Ms. Wise also spoke in support of putting a gate up.
- George Junkin (8 S. 4th St.) - As a member of the Historical Society, Mr. Junkin announced a presentation the Historical Society is sponsoring at the Fort Miles Historical Area facility on March 22. The cost is \$15 for lunch and there will be a tour of the facility. The presentation is open to the public.
- Jerald Hunter (438 Black Gum Dr.) – In support of Mr. Headman's presentation, told Council of his concerns and experiences regarding traffic in Cat Hill. Mr. Hunter said he would enjoy being in South Bethany if there were year round restrictions (like the barricade in the summers) on the number of people driving through Cat Hill.
- Dennis Roberts (107 Canal Dr.) – Stating that the biggest problem is volume of cars, Mr. Roberts asked to what extent does the Town need to go to keep people from making Cat Hill the most viable and easiest choice to go through. Mr. Roberts added that with the future large communities that will be developed, not only are South Bethany's streets going to be affected but also South Bethany's beach is going to be affected by shuttle services.
- Ed Nazarian (20 Peterson Dr.) – Asked the Chief of Police if the stop signs in Cat Hill are illegal. Chief Crowson said that as of the last DeIDOT study the stop signs in Cat Hill are legal.
- Michael Stack (418 Black Gum Dr.) – Thanked Mr. Headman and his group for the presentation. Mr. Stack said the presentation was very detailed, understandable, eloquent, and it made a great point.
- Andrea Lapinski (407 Cattail Rd.) – Stated that she is most concerned about the volume of traffic.

Mayor Voveris thanked everyone for their participation.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- **Approval of 2016 Board of Election – Reappointment of Carolyn Marcello, Bonnie Rae, and Sally Baker**

A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilman Schrader, that Council approve the reappointment of Carolyn Marcello, Bonnie Rae, and Sally Baker to the 2016 Board of Election. The motion was unanimously carried.

- **Approval of 2016 Election Workers – Reappointment of Pat Spangler and Jay Headman and Appointment of Lora Caputo**

A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilman Schrader, that Council approve the reappointment of Pat Spangler and Jay Headman and the appointment of Lora Caputo as the 2016 Election Workers. The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON ADDITION TO TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY RULES OF PROCEDURES

Motion and Vote: After discussion a motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson, seconded by Councilman Schrader, to add the following as Item 13 in the Town of South Bethany Rules of Procedure: *Council members are encouraged to be actively involved in the affairs of the Town and to express their individual opinions on Town matters. Unless a Council member has been authorized to speak on behalf of the Town Council, Council members should always make it clear that any opinions expressed represent their individual positions and not the position of the Town Council.* The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON FY 2016 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Councilman Saxton reviewed the following FY 2016 Budget Amendment Requests:

It is requested that the following **Revenue** Budgeted account being increased:

		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Total Budget	YTD	Balance
01-300-4300	Building Permits	120,000.00	75,000.00	195,000.00	176,652.17	-18,347.83
02-100-4000	Realty Transfer Tax Income	305,000.00	115,000.00	420,000.00	391,132.50	-28,867.50
01-400-4319	Community Transportation Fund (DELDOT) Grant	0.00	10,396.00	10,396.00	0.00	-10,396.00
Total Revenue Increase			\$ 200,396.00			

Councilman Saxton noted that the Community Transportation Fund (DelDOT) Grant is for the electronic speed monitors.

It is requested that the following Expenditure accounts have money transferred from the Fund Balance:

		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Total Budget	YTD	Balance	
01-100-5240	G&A - Legal	25,000.00	37,000.00	62,000.00	53,627.37	8,372.63	(FEMA Appeal \$32,000 and add'l monthly legal expenses \$5,000)
01-100-5756	G&A - Community Transportation Fund (DELDOT)	0.00	10,396.00	10,396.00	0.00	10,396.00	Grant approved for Radar Signs for placement in Town limits
01-350-5100	DPS - Salaries	368,493.00	5,000.00	373,493.00	299,709.17	73,783.83	(\$5,000 Bonus for Chief (Sep2015))
02-700-5015	Real Estate Transfer Tax - Bank Fees	4,500.00	2,000.00	6,500.00	4,878.00	1,622.00	To cover add'l Transfer Tax collection fees and bank fees
Total Amount Requested from Fund Balance:			\$ 54,396.00				

The following Expenditure Budget Amendments are requested within the scope of the Budgetary Guidelines Policy and will not change departmental budgeted Amounts.

		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Total Budget	YTD	Balance
01-600-5100	SBBP - Salaries	198,208.00	-7,500.00	190,708.00	180,308.73	10,399.27
01-600-5100	SBBP - Equipment	5,500.00	7,500.00	13,000.00	5,356.90	7,643.10
(Re-alignment of funds for additional lifeguard stands, shed repairs and computer and shelving for lifeguard office)						

Motion and Vote: A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilman Schrader, that Council accepts the FY 2016 budget amendment requests. After discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS (Paper copies of reports were available on the sign-in table. Oral reports were not presented.)

Public Comment: Diann Nazarian (20 Peterson Dr.) – Commented that she missed the oral reports. Mayor Voveris explained that oral reports were not given at this meeting or the December 11, 2015, Town Council Regular Meeting due to a lengthy agenda. Mayor Voveris said that this is an anomaly and oral reports will be given in the future.

- **Mayor’s Report**—Submitted by Mayor Voveris:

During December I worked on getting our Town appeal on the proposed May 2015 FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) ready to submit to FEMA.

In January I called an Emergency Meeting of the Council to take action on submitting an owner’s appeal of this FIRM to FEMA.

The JONAS weather event proved to be a powerful one. Our Staff and Police Department rallied to monitor and maintain information at all times. Our Police Department assisted in a rescue in Ocean View with our newly acquired Humvee.

A News Update was sent on the Monday following this weekend weather event to keep our owners informed and aware of the storm impact to our Town.

Interesting statistics to note, this storm affected 26 states, covered 434,000 miles, impacted nearly 103 million people, and was attributed to 52 related deaths.

A community event was held at the Coastal Library on January 25 with a question/answer panel comprised of local Police representation from Bethany Beach, Selbyville, Fenwick, Ocean View, South Bethany and Troop 4. Senator Hocker, Representative Gray and County Councilman Rob Arlett were also in attendance. Senator Hocker announced that Millville will be building a substation for Troop 4. All 3 politicians spoke to the upcoming State budget and some concerns each had in various areas.

On February 3 Councilwoman Callaway, Town Manager Cusick and I attended a S.C.A.T. (Sussex County Association of Towns) evening meeting that focused on area legislators and their platforms. Both Senator Hocker and Representative Gray spoke about the recent storm and the damage to our dune and their need to be supportive of action to repair and restore it. Other legislators spoke to initiatives to increase our MSA (Municipal Street Aid) funding and protect the percentage of Transfer Tax Revenue that our towns receive from property sales. The next S.C.A.T. meeting with legislators will be held the morning of March 18.

Thank you.

- **Town Manager's Report**—Submitted by Melvin Cusick:

Winter storm "Jonas" hit the east coast of the United States on Friday evening, January 22, and lasted through the weekend. Several Weather calls were held throughout the storm with the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, local governments, the National Weather Service, DeIDOT, National Guard, Fire and EMS, and DEMA. While South Bethany had little snow accumulation to deal with, strong northeast winds caused severe erosion to the beach and protective dune system from Ocean City, Maryland to Lewes, Delaware and also along the Delaware Bay coastline. A large section of the dune at the south end of Ocean Drive was completely eroded away. All of the other sections of the dune suffered severe erosion and all beach walkways remain closed. The strong winds deposited sand on Ocean Drive and on Sea Side Drive. This sand was and continues to be removed by the South Bethany Maintenance Department. The high winds did cause some minor damage such as loss of a few roof shingles on several homes but no major structural damage. We were very fortunate that no severe bayside flooding occurred in South Bethany and there have been no reports of flood damage to any residences.

DNREC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began assessments of sand loss along the coast on Monday and Tuesday following the storm. Governor Markell and Senator Carper toured the areas and there are discussions underway on future beach repairs and nourishment projects. As sand naturally builds up along the beaches, DNREC has begun the process of pushing the sand to fortify the dune systems for protection in the event of another storm event. It is hoped that there will be enough sand to allow the opening of some of the beach accesses.

- **Treasurer's Report**—Submitted by Councilman Saxton:

- Treasurer's Report for the first nine months of FY 2016 has been provided to the Mayor and Council for review. The full Edmunds Report for the first nine months of FY 2016 will be provided to the Town Council at the February Workshop.
- Revenues continue to do well and we have collected approximately 95% of the fiscal year total. Highlights for Revenues are:
 - Property tax 97% collected. Following up with 12 property owners who are late in making tax payments. Improvement of 4 tax collections since December.
 - Transfer Taxes are at 128% collected. We are revising our estimate for RTT from \$305,000 to \$420,000 for FY 2016.
 - Building Permits are at 147% of budget. Additional permits in the pipeline. Revising the estimate for Building Permits from \$120,000 to \$195,000.
 - Magistrate Fines are at 110% of budget.
 - All other revenues are tracking to budget.
- Departmental and Committee expenditures are tracking to Budget or less except for G&A due to Legal costs.
- Legal Costs at nine months of FY2016 are approximately \$28,000 over budget due to the FEMA appeal. This overage includes the contract for the Woods Hole Group to create the Appeal and related legal costs.

- **Police Department Report/Questions**—Submitted by Chief Troy Crowson:

Clean-up after JONAS:

- Pictures of the latest storm have been sent out through email along with the town's website.
- Chief Crowson, Patrolman Loulou and Patrolman Hudson worked hard patrolling every street throughout the weekend.
- Chief Crowson and Patrolman Loulou along with the Ocean View Police Department, were called to assist the Delaware State Police with a rescue using our department's Humvee (Pictures and story covered in the Coastal Point).
- Officers had a busy weekend and have responded to more than 21 calls as a result of the storm.
- We're still receiving reports of shingle damage to residences as well as other, minor damages.

Department Facebook:

- The South Bethany Police Dept. has created a Facebook page for our Police Department.
- This will allow us to stay in touch with the community via social media and post updates regularly.
- Will also be useful to stay updated on current events like the recent storm.

Bethany-Fenwick Chamber Valor Award

The South Bethany Police Department has nominated Cpl. Miller for the 2016 Joshua M. Freeman Valor Award. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on Friday, February 19, at the Den at Bear Trap Dunes. With Cpl. Miller's diligence and professionalism throughout an incident that occurred last August he was able to retrieve a combative subject from the canal removing him from the danger of drowning. Cpl. Miller put the subject's well-being before his own to ensure his safety and the safety of the community. He received an injury as a result of this incident which has since been a long and grueling recovery. The South Bethany Police Department applauds Cpl. Miller for a job well done!

COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS (Paper copies of reports were available on the sign-in table. Oral reports were not presented.)

- **Community Enhancement Committee** – Submitted by Councilwoman Callaway:

The Community Enhancement Committee met in December and will meet on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 1:00 pm at the Town Hall Meeting Room. The following is a list of updates related to on-going work and issues:

- Existing Street Lights: Per an update from Delmarva Power on February 4th, the additional six free-standing street lights with protective shields are "on schedule to be installed at replacement sites any day now."
- Condition of grass within the Route 1 median: In follow-up to the December 9th CEC discussion regarding the expanding damage of the grasses within the Route 1 median, Sue Callaway and Don Chrobot met with Police Chief Troy Crowson and Mayor Pat Voveris on January 7th to discuss the goals and objectives of the police department regarding speed and traffic control along Route 1 and the impact on the goals and objectives of the Public Works and the Community Enhancement Committee. Photos of damaged areas were shared and alternative locations were discussed. Chief Crowson agreed to meet with his staff and discuss the issue. The Chief, Mayor, Councilwoman Callaway and Public Works Supervisor Chrobot will meet again on March 18th to further discuss and review the issue.
- Phase 4 of the covered sign posts on the East side of Route 1 is now complete.
- New Welcome Signs at the north and south entrances: Costs for new signs have been submitted for the FY 17 CEC budget. Sue and Don have been working with Signarama to gather estimates and begin the initial design development. Due to new DeIDOT regulations ruling that no lights may shine on the signs, the sign will be digitally created on a specific product using reflective lettering. Melvin is working on completing the sign application and Sue and Don are following up on creating design specs to fit the requirements. Due to the recent drunk driving incident that destroyed the existing north Welcome Sign, estimates for one replacement sign and posts are being submitted to the Insurance Company in conjunction with the police department.
- Outdoor Historic Sign Project: Sue Callaway has been following up with the Historical Society regarding a potential partnership to create outdoor historic South Bethany photos to be placed around Richard Hall Memorial. Sue has submitted costs for the project

within the FY 17 CEC budget which will be further discussed at the February Town Council Workshop.

- Proposed Art Show: Sue Callaway has been following up with the Communications and Public Relations Committee, Richard Mais owner of the York Beach Mall and local SB resident artist Tara Grimm regarding hosting an art show at the Mall. Currently we are discussing potential dates and some show logistics. Sue has submitted publicity costs for the initiative in the FY 17 CEC budget and plans to have more specific details by the February Town Council Workshop.

- **Budget and Finance Committee** – Submitted by Councilman Saxton:

- Three meetings were held. Next Meeting scheduled for March 2016.
- Work on the Fee schedule for the Town was completed. The committee approved a change in fees for building permits, BOA fees, Property and Rental Tax late fees, FOIA fees, Credit Card Processing fees and Mercantile License fees. The committee is prepared to submit their recommendations to the Town Council in February.
- The committee reviewed the draft FY 2017 budget with the Town Department Heads and the Finance Director. The committee recommended changes within the draft budget for consideration by the Town Council. These recommendations will be included in the draft budget presentation at the February workshop.
- The committee reviewed the Compensation Policy and has recommended no changes to the Salary Step schedule or benefits. The committee continues to review the various Paid Time Off policies as it awaits information being collected from multiple towns across the county.

- **Charter and Code Committee** – Submitted by John Fields, Chair:

The Charter and Code Committee met on January 14, 2016. In addition to Committee members, three Council members and representatives from Miken Builders were present. There was a legendry discussion concerning the permitted height of ocean front houses. Under the current code houses at the south end of Ocean Drive cannot be built with 8 foot high ceilings if the house has 3 floors. The Committee will work on an ordinance to correct this problem.

The height of boat lifts in South Bethany was also discussed. A solution to this problem is being sought. More work will need to be done to draft an ordinance that will be reasonable.

- **Canal Water Quality Committee (CWQC)** – Submitted by Councilman Junkin:

Grant Status

- Sandpiper Pines Stormwater Retrofits (Rain Gardens and Infiltration Trenches)
 - The project is fully approved through Sussex Conservation District and we can proceed with construction.
 - Participating homeowners have made their selections for the rain garden plantings.
 - Construction and planting is scheduled for the spring time frame.
- York Canal Oysters and Floating Wetlands
 - No new information

- **Sea Level Rise (SLR) and Storm Surge (SS) Committee** – Submitted by Councilman Junkin:

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Status

- All activities are on schedule
- All activities should be completed by the end of the month. Anchor is currently finishing up the last deliverable, the inundation maps.

2016 Resilient Community Partnership with DNREC

- This partnership was for “Up to \$75,000 in funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be administered by DNREC for contracted services such as cost-benefit analyses and engineering designs, as needed.”
 - The proposal to obtain the partnership with DNREC was submitted in January.
 - In early February we were informed that South Bethany’s proposal was not the one that was selected. There was only one candidate that was to be selected.
 - We have been informed that there will be another opportunity next year.
- **Planning Commission** – Submitted by Councilwoman Stevenson:
The Planning Commission met on January 4, 2016 to continue working on the Comprehensive Plan. Frank Weisgerber attended as Town Council Liaison.
 - **Assawoman Canal Trail** – Submitted by Councilwoman Stevenson:
There was nothing new to report.
 - **Communications and Public Relations Committee** – Submitted by Councilwoman Stevenson:
The first activity of 2016 was held on January 1, 2016. A Polar Bear Plunge Breakfast for The South Bethany Plunge participants was held in Town Hall. Approximately 45 persons attended the breakfast where Bethany Beach Polar Bear Plunge participants on the South Bethany Team received their special T-Shirts. A number of participants did not attend as they were running in the 5K race in Bethany Beach. Following the breakfast, participants, friends, and families adjourned to Bethany Beach to cheer for the South Bethany Team. Ann Boteler photographed the event. Pictures will be posted on the town website shortly.

The next activity for the committee will be a pot luck supper for those South Bethany Citizens remaining in town on February 20th at 6 PM. All citizens and guests are invited to participate. Interested persons should RSVP to Lisa Saxton at saxtonln1@yahoo.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Nazarian (20 Peterson Dr.) – Expressed his disappointment of the number of people that left the meeting early after the presentation and discussion on roadway safety issues was over.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilman Saxton, to adjourn the February 12, 2016, Town Council Regular Meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion was unanimously carried.