



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 – 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

The meeting began at 1:00 pm and was attended by the following committee members: Sue Callaway, Chair; Donna Farrow, Diann Nazarian, Barbara Sears, Barbara Stephan, Kent Stephan, Carol Stevenson, Pat Weisgerber and Rick Gentile representing Public Works. Garnet Timbario was absent. Sue proposed that the agenda be adjusted to accommodate the early departure of two members and to make sure that items requiring a vote were discussed first. The members approved.

Public Comments and CEC Member Comments

During CEC Comments, Kent Stephan announced that he had purchased some bulbs to plant in the Anchorage Forebay Earth Day canal end and asked if anyone wanted to join him. Sue volunteered and asked him to let him know when he would do the planting.

In response to Bonnie Rae's request, Sue Callaway read an email from Bonnie dated September 26, in which she asked that the CEC consider her plan to turn the bench boards over on the South Bethany memorial benches to hide the large lettering and then add a metal plaque with the same memorialized message on it. Bonnie stated that she and others do not think these memorialized benches enhance the community. Sue asked the committee to comment on Bonnie's proposal. After discussion and review the committee noted that as part of the Adopt Program two new SB memorial benches have plaques similar to those suggested by Bonnie. While Committee members were not familiar with how the memorial bench program was created, what the process was, or if any promises were made to those who purchased them, the group unanimously agreed that they did not support making the suggested changes. Sue mentioned that recently moving one bench to a slightly different location caused the relative and neighbor consternation. This served as a reminder as to what the benches mean to people. Sue also pointed out that she had not received any other comments from property owners regarding the memorial benches during her 5 years on CEC. The CEC voted on the proposal and the outcome was 8-0 against the proposal. Sue said she would send a follow-up email to Bonnie Rae informing her of the discussion and outcome.

Review and Discussion of Potential 2016 Activities for the coming year

(See discussion points on attached Update of Proposed Potential CEC Activities List). In addition, Garnet Timbario's list of suggestions was discussed in her absence.

Update on Ocean Drive Art Boards

All agreed that the removal of the artwork in Town Hall is really missed. Sue stated that photographs of SB Events and Activities has been approved by Town Council and that work on that needs to be organized. Kent Stephan and Pat Weisgerber volunteered to meet with Sue Callaway and select photographs for this endeavor. The group was more in favor of getting the canvas type photographs rather than framed prints.

Looking Ahead to Next Year – The artwork will be removed after Thanksgiving and re-hung in April 2016. The program is complete. The CEC may want to explore hosting an art show at York Beach Mall and Sue noted that Richard Mais was interested in the idea.

Update on Targeted Canal/Road Ends and Maintenance of Miscellaneous Ends

The group reviewed the updated priority A List and noted that a lot of progress has been made on adopting these A list (most in need of adopting) canal/road ends. The following remain on the A List: canal end on Route 1 between Henlopen and Brandywine is a potential Earth Day adoption; Layton Road End; New Castle Road End; and Brandywine Road End. The group also discussed the issue of maintenance and the importance of recruiting more volunteers to help maintain some of the canal ends, particularly those along Route 1. The group endorsed the use of Preen in the spring and Round-up during the height of weed season. The group asked Sue to recommend the best location for the Earth Day adoption.

Replacement of 12 Existing Street Lights

Delmarva Power met with Don on October 8 to assess the locations where moving the lights has been planned. Everything seems to be on track for a fall start to the project. Sue stated that 4 responses to the notification letters have been received with homeowners inquiring about the lights – Melvin Cusick has handled the responses to such inquiries. Don will keep us up-to-date on the progress of this project.

Update from Public Works – Rick Gentile

Rick presented an overview of several Public Works projects:

- They are currently cutting overgrown brush throughout town and should be completed within the week
- Will begin Phase 4 of the sign initiative. This includes placing the vinyl wrap around all the sign posts within the East side of Route 1 such as "No Parking"
- Christmas lights will be hung by Thanksgiving
- The group discussed the improved water treatment landscaping and the idea of having an artist paint a design on the larger piece located against the fence.

- The group reviewed Garnet's idea of removing the "rusty contraption" found along the Route 1 walkway between Sussex and Kent Roads. Sue noted that she had previously inquired about this and they planted the vines around it. It is some sort of sewer air pipe that must remain there but all agreed that it needs some further enhancement.
- Discussion about trimming back Crepe Myrtles – especially along Route 1 and the canal end along Canal Drive between W. 9th and W. 8th Streets
- Rick proposed exploring the idea of building a wetlands viewing area off of Canal Drive. Sue asked if he and Donna Farrow would propose specific locations and design and bring to next CEC meeting.

Future Meeting Date – The group confirmed that they will meet on **Wednesday, December 9 at 9:30 am** with the annual Holiday Day luncheon to follow.