



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

The Community Enhancement Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at the Town Hall meeting room from 10:00 am to 11:40 pm. The following individuals were in attendance: Sue Callaway, Chair; Donna Farrow; Diann Nazarian; Sharon Nonn; Bobbe Stephan; Kent Stephan; Carol Stevenson; and Don Chrobot, Maintenance Supervisor.

Sue Callaway welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that since no property owners were in attendance there were no public comments. Committee members were given the opportunity to speak on behalf of property owners and/or present individual comments on topics not on the agenda. The following comments were shared:

- Sue Callaway noted that in response to Kent Stephan's 9-18-12 inquiry about the status of the community education display boards proposed by the CIB that she had an email response from Sally Boswell at the CIB who stated that initial design plans were not approved and so they are working on developing new plans.
- Kent Stephan asked on behalf of his neighbor, about the sumac planted in the Route 1 rain gardens. Don confirmed that they would be cut back and Sue reminded Kent that the CEC voted to keep the sumac in the rain gardens.

Route 1 Median and DFS Tree Planting Grant

Discussion moved to the Route 1 area and Sue confirmed that during Don and Sue's October 4th meeting with Mike Lord (Lord's Landscaping), Mike stated that Shenandoah

grasses will be planted within bioretention areas as they have been the most successful. Lord's will cut all grasses back in February 2013. Sue informed the group that Lord's has hand-weeded the York Beach Mall beds, cut back plants and trimmed trees, and also thatched and re-seeded the sod surrounding the beds. On October 12th 2013, Lord's planted 16 trees within the Route 1 Median. These new trees were funded by a 2012 grant from the Department of Forest Services and are located across from Kent and Sussex. (see Email News Update below sent to SB Property Owners via email during the week of October 28th). Don has been watering the newly planted trees and will continue to do so as needed.

Ocean Drive Test Lighting Project and Street Signs

Don reported that the street sign project continues to move along and should be completed by the end of October. As discussed at the last meeting, Sue noted that the group had approved recommending funding for new street signs and covered poles along both the east and west side of Route 1 (Phase 2). The group then focused on recommending doing all signs on the east side – covering all signs (i.e. no parking this side, permit parking only, etc.) on the streets that run perpendicular to Ocean Drive (Phase 3). The group agreed to include this recommendation in the FY 14 Budget. Don will count the number of signs and determine an estimated cost for Phase 3. Phase 4 is seen as changing the street signs on the west side. During “down time,” Don will determine how many street signs Phase 4 includes and the associated costs. Don also pointed out that replacement signs for the new signs need to be included in the FY 14 Budget as he pointed out that one Ocean Drive sign had been taken and needed replacement. The old green and white signs will be “auctioned” at the SBPOA Bull Roast with Donna Farrow and John Speer coordinating that effort. Sue also stated that she had received a request from a South Bethany Boy Scout to complete an Eagle Scout Project within South Bethany. His proposed plan is to install street signs on the side of each bulkhead facing the canal so that boaters will know which street they are passing. Scout Andrew Chapdelaine's request has been approved and he will use the existing green and white street signs.

Sue summarized the status of the Ocean Drive Test Street Light project: 1) the Town received written approval forms from all notified Ocean Drive residents; 2) Sue will request final approval from the Town Council at the Workshop on October 25th; 3) upon approval, the Town will then submit the required Delmarva Power application form; 4) test lights will be up for several months and Ocean Drive residents will be asked to assess their impact.

Adopt-A-Canal/Road End Program – Review of Plan for “Unadopted” Canals

Sue stated that the Adopt Sub-Committee members have conducted an onsite review of each “unadopted” canal/road end in South Bethany. They have prepared a list that categorizes the ends into three areas: A – recommend adoption; B – end okay for now; and C – last priority. The group agreed to reach out to those residents adjacent to or near the A canal/road ends via letter to seek their interest in adopting. Sharon Nonn agreed to draft a letter to those identified homeowners which will be reviewed by the Adopt Sub-Committee. Sue also reviewed the pending list of adoptions and noted that one new application had been received for a Bayshore Drive road end.

Discussion of New Initiatives

- Town Bulletin Boards

The group discussed the condition of the four Town Bulletin Boards located at Town Hall, on York Road and one each at the north end of Ocean Drive and one mid Ocean Drive. Don pointed out that the one on York Road had been replaced last year and the group agreed that the Town Hall Board suited the environment well. The group agreed that replacement and updating of the two Boards on Ocean Drive should be included in the FY 14 Budget.

- York Road/Carlisle Canal Ends – Town Improvement Project vs Adoption?

Sue noted that during their assessment of existing canal/road ends, they observed the two located on York Road that are in need of improvement. Sue emphasized that these two ends are highly visible as York Road is heavily trafficked by cars, walkers and bikers. Don pointed out that the Town owns the first York Road canal end but the second one is owned jointly by two property owners. However, the Bulletin Board is located on the town right of way. After discussion, the group agreed that since the town-owned canal end is adjacent to vacant lots and would be a challenging adoption, the Town should include landscaping of this canal end in the FY 14 Budget and commit to its maintenance. The group suggested the plan include: remove the junipers, install posts with safety warnings and wires; plant four dwarf crepe myrtles and possibly some other plants (assess after removal of junipers); and install a bench as the area has magnificent views that residents and guests can leisurely enjoy.



It was also agreed that the junipers in the second York Road canal end should be trimmed. Don added that they would do this during their fall trimming initiative.

- Christmas Lighting

Don requested that the CEC offer some suggestions for new Christmas lighting options. After discussion and reviewing some photos of possible decorations, the group recommended the lighted deer in the Route 1 welcome areas and possible snowman; some grapevine deer scattered throughout the median trees and also at Cat Hill entrance; and possible lantern and lighted garland at Town Hall. Don and Sue agreed to go "Christmas" shopping the week of October 28th.

- Mailboxes along Route 1 East and West Side

Sue mentioned that an earlier effort to explore the positioning of mailboxes along the east side of Route 1 and groups of mailboxes throughout the town had never been completed. Carol Stevenson offered to talk with the post master and confirm why the mailboxes are on Route 1 and if they can be moved to the front of houses. If the East Coast rain garden project is funded, mailboxes will need to be moved. Sue noted that per Town Ordinance, mailboxes must be kept in good repair.

- Town Hall Sign



Sue announced to the Committee that South Bethany property owners Lori and Frank Cicero had offered to have Frank's company 84 Lumber create a new Town Hall sign. Sue showed the group some preliminary art work

that featured the town's two greatest assets – the ocean and the canals. The group liked the concept and offered some minor revisions. Kent Stephan pointed out that the Public Relations and Communications Committee should review the sign and make certain that it fits with the overall "marketing" strategy to promote South Bethany. Sue agreed to share the plan and design with Mark Damata, Chair of that Committee and convey his feedback to Lori as well.

Conclusion

The Committee agreed to not meet in November but to meet earlier in December and hold a meeting/holiday brunch celebration on Wednesday, December 12th at 9:30 am at Town Hall meeting room. Sue will invite Town staff to the brunch.

Adjournment

The group adjourned at 11:40 am.

Addendum

The Town Council approved the Test Light Project on October 25th. The Town submitted the application to Delmarva Power on Friday, October 26th. Once the test lights are installed, Ocean Drive residents will be notified that the lights are up.

South Bethany Tree Grant News Update – October 2012

The Town of South Bethany is pleased to announce that it has received a 2012 Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the State of Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The \$3500 grant amount has been used to plant 16 additional trees along the Route 1 Median of South Bethany. This 2012 grant award continues to support South Bethany's initiative to 1) improve storm water runoff and 2) increase the town's tree canopy per 2011 Town of South Bethany Forest Density Canopy Resolution 9-1, by planting additional trees within the Route 1 Median area. The town is focused on taking steps that will help improve storm water management and introduce regionally appropriate trees such as the Sweet Bay Magnolia and River Birch. In addition, the tree planting further enhances South Bethany's landscaping appearance along this extensive visual area of the town. We invite you to drive by and enjoy these new improvements!

