



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

The Community Enhancement Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at the Town Hall meeting room from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm. The following individuals were in attendance: Sue Callaway, Chair; Donna Farrow; Diann Nazarian; Sharon Nonn (*unable to attend due to weather*); John Speer; Bobbe Stephan; Kent Stephan; Don Chrobot, Maintenance Supervisor; Ron Watts and Peter Brockstedt, South Bethany Code Enforcement Constable.

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:

- Diann Nazarian stated that the grasses under the trees within the bioretention beds on Route 1 are inconsistent in size, spacing and growth. Sue noted that Lord's Landscaping would be doing the fall maintenance very soon and would be evaluating all of the herbaceous plants. Sue commented that they had already discussed replacing struggling grasses with Shenandoah grasses as they appeared to do better than other species.
- Donna Farrow commented that WBOC had been flying over South Bethany and had done a story on our town as a featured area. The group agreed to follow-up and see if we could obtain a website link to the feature story.
- Kent Stephan inquired about the status of the community education display boards proposed by the CIB. Sue agreed to follow-up with Sally Boswell at the CIB as she had not heard from her in quite some time.

Discussion then moved into Route 1 related items and the agenda was altered.

Route 1 Improvements and Maintenance

In looking ahead to next year, Sue asked Don and Ron if plans needed to be formulated to address weeding of the many new beds and rain gardens. Ron noted that the amount of time spent this year watering the many new plants was very time-consuming. He did not anticipate the same situation next year as there would not be the same large amount of new plants and thus more time could be devoted to weeding and maintaining existing beds. In reviewing York Beach Mall beds, Don is planning to re-seed the sod and would like to see how that does rather than replace it with some kind of stones as suggested by Mike Lord. The group agreed that the rain gardens along the Pedestrian Walkway were a success and no changes needed to be made as well as the circle beds in the Route 1 Median.

Department of Forestry Services – Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Sue announced that she had been notified on September 11 that the Town's application had been approved to receive another tree grant from DFS. The town will receive a total of \$3,500 to plant additional trees along the Route 1 corridor. According to DFS, no towns received the full amount of \$5,000 as requested. Don is now re-contacting the vendors who had submitted estimates to revise their bids for \$3,500. Work will begin after the town signs a contract with DFS.

Ocean Drive Improvement

Don stated that he and Ron continued to work on preparing the remaining Ocean Drive signs and the intersecting street signs as well. Once the mobi mats have been removed and final beach closure-related tasks were completed the signs are a priority. Sue noted that in looking ahead and beginning to prepare the FY14 budget, she had asked Don to prepare numbers and costs for new signage along east and west sides of Route 1. The following are the associated costs for 34 signs intersecting Route 1.

Sleeve: \$25; post \$20; New blue and white sign \$25; Bracket \$10 = Cost \$80. Per sign

Total cost for 34 signs along Route 1 = \$2, 720. A motion was unanimously approved by the CEC to support a FY14 Budget request for the 34 signs along the Route 1 corridor.

It was suggested that the old green and white street signs from Ocean Drive and the intersecting streets be sold as a CEC fundraising effort at the June 2013 SBPOA Bull Roast. Donna Farrow and John Speer agreed to work on this effort.

The group also noted that the Ocean Drive planter bins did quite well despite the heat and lack of rain and agreed to plant the same wave petunias next year. Diann reminded the group that per the landscaper's advice, the dirt in the planters should be changed entirely. While uncertain of the name of the soil, one is better because it doesn't hold water and is cheaper in price than what was used.

Discussion moved into the condition of many Oceanside lots with grasses and overgrown weeds. Pete Brockstedt noted that he is working with some homeowners but finds it more challenging to distinguish between overgrown weeds and natural sea grasses. Diann Nazarian noted a particular Code that addresses weeds and overgrowth. The particular code she cited is Section 104.7 and is correct; according to Pete, Section 104-12 applies in many instances and in some cases it is Section 125-2. Pete also remarked that they have definitely made progress with having dead trees removed. Kent Stephan has observed during his walks that oceanside residential landscaping was in need of improvement and suggested that a landscaping company, such as Lord's Landscaping or Nature Design (Chantal), be approached to offer consultation to individual homeowners or prepare guidelines on landscaping challenging areas.

Discussion then moved into overflowing trash, trash cans, recycle cans and trash bins in various states of disrepair. Pete confirmed that Property Maintenance *Code 104 – Article III – Section 104-17 requires that* "all buildings and structures shall be kept in good repair and condition." (the definition of structure includes "anything constructed, erected upon or attached to, on or below the ground" etc.) does allow him to address broken trash bins and bins in disrepair from a code enforcement standpoint. Discussion then focused on the definition of "curbside" as mentioned in *Solid Waste Code 114 – Article II – Section 114-7 – B. Residential use locations. This is the provision that identifies the location of trash bins and recycle carts.* Sue noted that the trash/recycling issue is on the Town Council Workshop agenda for the September 27th meeting and it may be that this subject returns to CEC for further input.

John Speer summarized a meeting that he, Sue Callaway and Don Chrobot had had earlier that day with Delmarva Power regarding potential options for Ocean Drive lighting. (please see attached Memorandum to Town Council that summarizes DP meeting content). Sue has received the okay to request an Ocean Drive test light period at the September 27th Town Council Workshop and seek Council approval.

Department of Forestry Services – Phragmites Community Education and Control

Sue presented the primary highlights of the South Bethany Phragmites Control Program funded by a grant with the Department of Forestry Services. A great deal of work had been conducted during August and included the development of the Community

Education flyer about phragmites; the development of the “hold harmless agreement”; the Email News Update about the Phragmites Program; and the letter to individual South Bethany homeowners whose homes had been identified as having phragmites. Sue pointed out that all of this information is available on the CEC section of the website as well as the home page. The grant will fund the spraying of town and individual properties by EnvironTech, a certified company. EnvironTech states that all spraying will be completed by September 25th.

“Would You Like to Increase Your Rental Income?” Flyer

Sue informed the group that the town mailed the flyer to all licensed rental property owners in mid-September along with the rental tax letter.

Update on the Adopt-A-Canal/Road End Program

Sue announced the results of the Adopt Beauty Contest and thanked Bobbe Stephan and Carol Stevenson for their help with contest logistics and tallying. An Email News Update was sent out on Friday September 7th and a September 2012 Adopt Update about all adopt participants and the Contest is now available on the CEC section of the town’s website. Winner Bryant and Olivia Elrod received a \$100 gift certificate from Lord’s Landscaping. John Speer suggested approaching SBPOA about coverage in their Shoreline Newsletter and/or their website. Sue agreed to follow-up with them.

In follow-up to her concerns about un-adopted canal/road ends, Diann Nazarian prepared a much-appreciated thorough onsite review of each canal/road end in South Bethany. Her list documents her observations and assessments about each one. Sue noted that the Adopt Committee was also in the process of assessing individual un-adopted canal/road ends and that Diann’s information will be combined with the Adopt Committee data as well. The Adopt Committee plans to conduct targeted outreach to property owners adjacent to near canal/road ends considered to be “definitely in need of adoption.” The canal/road end analysis should be completed by the October CEC meeting. Sue noted that approximately 5 canal/road ends were pending adoptions. She is compiling a list of canal ends in need of juniper removal during the winter or early spring so that appropriate dollars can be budgeted.

Conclusion

The Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, October 24th at 10:00 am at Town Hall meeting room.

Addendum

- At the September 27th Town Council Workshop, the Town Council approved the test light experiment on Ocean Drive once neighbors who reside adjacent or next to the two test sites have been contacted. That process has been initiated by John Speer, Pat Voveris and the CEC on behalf of the town.
- Donna Farrow located the link to the WBAL story featuring South Bethany.

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<http://www.wboc.com/category/174346/main-wboc-video-player?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=7724761#.UGrsIsfllgw.email>

- Sue Callaway and Don Chrobot met with Lord's Landscaping on Thursday, October 4th and Lord's will begin planting trees along the Route 1 Median and conducting the year-long maintenance along the Median mid-October.