



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

The Community Enhancement Committee held a meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at the Town Hall meeting room from 10:00 am to 11:45 am. The following individuals were in attendance: Sue Callaway, Chair; Donna Farrow; George Junkin; Diann Nazarian; Barbara Sears; Kent Stephan; Bobbe Stephan; and Don Chrobot, Maintenance Supervisor. There were no public comments. Sue Callaway suggested that future agendas include time allotted for CEC member comments following public comments.

CEC Member Comments

Kent Stephan suggested that since Delmarva Power did not approve the "painted telephone pole" idea, that CEC and perhaps others come up with an idea of a way to create something distinctive – something along the highway that becomes a signature focal point for the Town of South Bethany. The group supported the idea and agreed to pursue ideas. Thinking about this concept led the group to discuss the previously proposed idea of funding new Welcome to South Bethany signs. Sue noted it was in the five-year plan and could be in the upcoming FY 15 CEC Budget. Don agreed to measure the existing signs and check to see if there are height restrictions for these signs.

Update on Adopt Program

Sue announced that the *2013 3rd Annual Adopt Beauty Contest* winner is the canal end on Bayshore Drive adopted by Carol and Todd Stevenson and Maryann and Dick Schmitt. An Email News Update announcing the winner was sent to SB property owners on September 13th. Sue thanked Bobbe and Carol for their help with tabulating the 156 ballots received. Sue stated that Mike Lord of Lord's Landscaping proposed donating prizes to the 1st, second and

third winners – the group agreed to alter 2014 contest voting to choosing the top three instead of the top five. Sue will reconfirm Lord’s offer. In addition, Sue noted that an article about the contest would appear in the September 27th issue of *Coastal Point*.

Sue described additional new adoptions. Most recently completed was the canal end between W. 6th and W. 5th. The Raistrick family led the adoption of this canal end along Canal Drive. All neighbors on W. 5th street participated in the adoption. Notification letters have been sent out regarding the Dubreuil adoption of the canal end between W. 7th and W. 6th streets. One neighbor is contributing funds toward the landscaping. They will work on the landscaping at the end of September. Sue met with the Boteler family on September 25th regarding the adoption of the road end on Sussex Place. Ann Boteler will contact all neighbors regarding the adoption and Don confirmed that funds are available for juniper removal. Also, Sue received email correspondence from Scott Weitz on South Anchorage Road who is interested in adopting the road end on Anchorage and the road end on W. 7th St. Don confirmed that the road end on Anchorage is owned by the Carr family and not eligible for adoption. Mr. Weitz may be in town on October 4th when he can meet to discuss the W. 7th St. adoption. Don purchased additional Adopt signs and placed them on wire stands – much easier to install than the wood stands. The group discussed the adopted canal ends in need of volunteer support. These include the York Road Earth Day adoption – Sue volunteered to adopt this one; Kent Stephan volunteered to maintain the first canal end adopted by Pat Voveris; and Sue agreed to reach out to Tristan Smythe again regarding his agreement to maintain his adopted canal end for a year. Sue also stated that she is working on the Annual Adopt Program Fall Update which should be completed in early October for distribution via Email News Update and on the CEC website.

Addendum: The *Coastal Point* article was posted on the CEC website on Friday, September 27.

Update on Phase 2 Street Sign Project – 33 New Street Signs along Route 1 East and West Sides

Don stated that the street signs had been ordered and that Phase 2 of the sign project will be worked on in November and December. This project includes installation of signs along the east and west side of Route 1. In speaking of this project, Don mentioned that the new Christmas lights had arrived and that he was very pleased with how they looked. Each light is a different design and the LED lights will really make the decorations stand out along Route 1. The old lights were destroyed in the flood and the town was reimbursed via FEMA dollars for new lights.

Update on Ocean Drive Alternative Lighting Trial Test

Upon CEC approval at the previous meeting, Don ordered and installed four additional solar lights adjacent to the current one so the impact of the solar lighting could be evaluated. Sue noted that at the September 13th Town Council meeting Al Rae questioned the installation of the solar lights “without Council approval and notification to neighbors.” As Sue did at the Council meeting, she and the group discussed the previously approved Ocean Drive Blueprint and Council’s authorization of funds for the effort. After discussion, the group agreed to allow the experimental solar light project to continue for several months so the impact of the lighting could be evaluated. It was proposed that prior to the preparation of the FY 15 Budget, letters be sent to Ocean Drive homeowners to assess their opinions about the experimental lights and their support for extending the lights along Ocean Drive. George Junkin stated he had not heard any unfavorable remarks about the lights, only favorable comments. On-site visits by CEC members reported that the lights appear to present a glow, nice feeling, positive ambiance, unobtrusive as they presented no intrusion into homes, and that there was no interference with star-gazing. Sue also noted that several positive comments were vocalized by South Bethany property owners at the Town Council meeting.

Bio-Retention Areas Along the East Side of Route 1

Sue informed the group that the design plans were presented to the town and CIB at a Town Hall meeting held on Monday, 9:00 am September, 23, The meeting included Larry Trout and his staff (contractors and designers), Bart Wilson, CIB; Sue Barton from the University of Delaware; Dave Wiecking from Middlesex Beach; landscape representatives and Sue Callaway and Don Chrobot from South Bethany. Larry presented the plans which were greatly influenced by the many utilities found and Sue Barton provided input and questions regarding the landscape design ideas for the 22 bio-retention areas on the east side and within Middlesex Beach. Sue Barton is also suggesting the use of “sawdust and seed” for some of the areas – a mixture that creates a landscaped but natural look. In addition, Sue and Don offered information about the current bio-retention areas and lessons learned about what works and does not work. They emphasized the need for as much maintenance-free design as possible. After the meeting, the group conducted an onsite visit to each of the areas included in the design. Sue Barton is currently working on landscape design plans for each area; Bart Wilson is contacting DelDOT to confirm traffic plans. CIB confirmed that the landscape budget is approximately \$35,000 and that South Bethany is contributing \$10,000 to the overall project. Trout introduced a landscaping firm that he has experience working with on such project types-CIB may choose to contract with this company. As it is late in the season, no planting will be able to take place this fall, thus discussion centered around whether excavating would occur in the fall as originally proposed or in the early spring. If done in the fall, DelDOT may require a ground covering over the excavated areas – an additional expense that was not

budgeted for. Bart Wilson was following up with DeIDOT about this issue as well. Based on the site visit, Sue Callaway also recommended that prior to excavation, SB complete a thorough pruning and clean-up occur of trees and brushes occur as it will be challenging to reach the areas once the bio-retention beds are in place.

Addendum: CIB notified George Junkin and Sue Callaway on October 1 that the project will not begin until the Spring 2014.

Update on Landscaping Projects

Sue stated that based on a few resident comments about impeded sight vision along Route 1 and across from Layton Drive, two river birch trees had been moved south on September 25. Lord's Landscaping graciously accommodated our request by only charging \$100 to move both trees. Don and Ron will be watering the trees in follow-up. Diann Nazarian stated that she did not like the appearance of the grasses under the crape myrtle trees. Most members disagreed with that opinion but stated that more grasses need to be planted in bare spots to achieve a more consistent look. Sue reminded the group that the FY 14 budget includes funds for additional plantings. Sue stated that Sue Barton confirmed that the Route 1 grasses should be cut back in the spring as they offer a beautiful fall and winter color. The group reviewed the maintenance plan that Lords' had suggested following an on-site review. The trees need to be pruned this fall – especially the lower limbs of the crape myrtle trees. Don stated that the circle beds and pedestrian rain gardens will be cut back in late fall. In addition, the knockout roses in the Welcome Areas are overgrown and block the South Bethany sign. Diann Nazarian suggested that the South Bethany Welcome areas be decorated for fall. Diann agreed to check with the South Bethany Women's Club to see if they may be interested in sponsoring this project. Discussion also centered on the need for additional help during the summer season with weeding and some other town projects. The additional bio-retention beds will increase this need even further. The FY 15 Budget will include this request.

Addendum: Thanks are extended to Diann and the Women's Club for following up on this idea. They have set to work and have already created a fall setting at the Welcome Areas! An Email News Update about the planting was sent out on Friday, October 4.

Adjournment

The group adjourned at 11:45 am. The group confirmed Thursday, October 24 at 10:00 am for the next meeting. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall Meeting Room.