

TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
Canal Water Quality Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 9, 2011 (1:00 p.m.)
Location: South Bethany Town Hall

Attendance

George Junkin (chairperson), Dave Wilson, Fran Maloney, Ron Wuslich, Sue Callaway, Frank McNeice, Jack Whitney, Al Rae, and Gene Hendrix.

Call To Order

George Junkin called the meeting to order at 1:00.

Agenda

There was only one topic on the agenda. It was to

Discuss the Water Quality Committee's response to the 2011 Town Survey questions relative to:

- Canal Maintenance
- Maintain the Dredged Canals
- Storm Water Management
- Aerators in Canals

Discussion

The meeting included a 2½ hour discussion on the 20 page draft response that George Junkin had prepared. The following lists some of the suggestions made to improve George's draft response:

- Add an Executive Summary
- Emphasize that current stormwater management on South Bethany streets is adequate and does the task it is designed to do.
- Discussion about recommending an ordinance to require owners to fill low spots on their property to facilitate drainage as required by Town Code Section § 104-11. Grading and Drainage which describes the proper way to grade.
- Explore the idea of developing an "Adopt-A-Canal" program where property owners with boats would clean trash and debris from the canals on a regular basis.
- Provide information about the previous dredging efforts and how and where it was conducted.
- Discussion on whether to require that bulkheads be raised to a specific level when they require repair so as to minimize flooding due to abnormally high canal tides.

- Enforce the ordinance that requires that the town right away be pervious. Town Code Section § 145-14.3 C. “Only materials, such as, but not limited to, gravel, shells, sand, and grass shall be allowed as a ground covering in any Town right-of-way. Pervious concrete, porous asphalt and permeable interlocking pavers shall not be used in any Town right-of-way.”
- The question was asked “Should we do anything differently relative to water quality monitoring?” The consensus was that a lot of it was recommended by the U of D and we should keep it the same for now.
- Provide information about the DNREC macro algae harvester into the report.
- There was significant discussion relative to diffusers/aerators.
 - Users appear to be very satisfied with them from a qualitative point of view (Visual results and the lack of foul odors.)
 - There were some quantitative results available from vendor web sites.
 - Gather information about noise and life expectancy of diffusers.
 - We are attempting to get quantitative results from Envirotech. All the users that we talked to had no quantitative data and suggested that Envirotech might have some.
 - Inquire about getting quantitative estimate of the improvement that we could expect in a canal. Without running the pilot project it is hard to quantify other than saying that it would be better than the current numbers. We have available significant amounts of quantitative data for the east and west ends of the Petheron and Anchorage Canals. Placing the pilot case in one of these canals allows the other canal to be a reference for performance and having the previous history provides a before and after comparison.
 - It was the consensus of the Committee that we should include the pilot program for two years as a recommendation to the Budget & Finance Committee.
 - The Committee should also explore potential optional funding resources for an aerator pilot program.
- George was assigned to update the draft report based on comments presented during the above discussion.
- It was confirmed that the next meeting would be Friday, October 14 at 1:00 at the Town Hall.
- The agenda for the next meeting is the same as for this meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.