

# Town of South Bethany

## Canal Water Quality Meeting minutes 7/8/2016

- Attendance Frank Weisgerber, chair; George Junkin; Jack Whitney; Dave Wilson; Frank McNeice; Tony Caputo; Ron Wuslich: Glenn Tom
- Dave Wilson gave a presentation on SB Water Monitoring efforts
  - Reviewed Canal Water sampling methodology
  - Briefly discussed status of CIB oyster project in York Canal
  - Algae harvesting
    - 2012 was worst year but 2016 not far behind
      - Both experienced delay in harvesting which lead to Algae decay along with extremely warm canal water temps. The June and July samplings showed DO levels extremely low some non-existent
  - Discussion on Anchorage fore bay cleanout and impact on Anchorage bacteria count...seeing drop for 2016 compared to same 2015 time period
  - Bio-retention areas on Anchorage completed in mid-May 2016. Subsequent Canal water monitoring samplings showed Anchorage significant DO and bacteria improvements
- George Junkin and Frank Weisgerber lead discussion on ideas to improve canal water quality
  - Agreement that a survey of SB canals depth would be needed to establish a baseline. The SB west side is a boating community and canal water quality and depth is important to maintain. It was noted that when SB had the canals dredged 7/8 years ago that water sampling dramatically improved. Anchorage canal was only dead-end canal fully dredged (the rest only approx. 100 ft in). Anchorage was fully dredged because of fore bay. The water sampling and bacteria count showed tremendous improvement for Anchorage.
    - The committee discussed pursuing what's involved with 'skimming' the canals on a routine bases, possibly 8 canals a year on rotation.
      - Frank Weisgerber will get with Melvin to find out details of costs and such from last canal dredging and report back.
  - The subject of buying our own Algae harvester was discussed. George Junkin had info on costs. The committee at this time felt that since DNREC purchased a new harvester and there is no cost for DNREC to do the harvesting that now was not the time to pursue buying our own.
  - Tim Shaw passed along info on Biological Water Clarifier methodology. Since our canals are tidal the committee felt that the running tides would nullify the impact shown by BWC on lakes and ponds.
  - We discussed the benefits and need to continue what George has been doing with the public broadcasts emails to SB residences. This will be something that will be continued.
- Tony Caputo reviewed the Oyster Gardening efforts in SB and CIB's efforts to continue and improve the effort.