



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

DECEMBER 7, 2017 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attending Committee Members – The following members were in attendance: Sue Callaway, Chair; Donna Farrow; Diann Nazarian; Bobbe Stephan; Kent Stephan; Carol Stevenson; Pat Weisgerber; and Don Chrobot, Public Works Supervisor and Rick Gentile, Public Works. No public was in attendance.

CEC Member Comments –

- Kent Stephan noted the importance of marketing South Bethany and in particular an idea of promoting holiday rentals in South Bethany. Since Carol will be meeting with realtors on March 6th this would be a good place to discuss this idea. CEC could work on developing a flyer in January that promotes holiday rentals i.e. "come to SB after Christmas and enjoy a getaway!" this would also require reaching out to the SB property owners who are interested in renting off season.
- CEC re-visited the broken fence along Route 1. Sue stated that she spoke with Joe Hinks regarding the issue of ownership and what the next steps should be. It was agreed that we need to follow up with Joe again.

Approval of 10-25-17 Meeting Minutes- After review, Diann made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Kent. The group unanimously supported the motion.

Update from Public Works – Based on CEC's request to improve crepe myrtles blossoms along Route 1, Rick Gentile reported that he is conducting an experiment with the crepe myrtles. He is pruning a group of trees harder than others (about 1/3 of the tree) – but not extreme like "crepe murder," while other groups will get lesser pruning. Rick expressed confidence that they should be very full by mid-summer. They are also rounding the tops of some of the other trees as recommended by Cody of Lord's Landscaping. Sue discussed her visit with Cody in November where they walked the entire median and discussed the health and welfare of all the trees. Sue added that Cody had also recommended the use of plant tone as an additional way to increase blooms. Public Works is in the midst of trimming bushes and trees throughout town. Don Chrobot also noted that all shields had been inserted into the Canal Drive street lights. Donna Farrow who lives off Canal Drive stated that the shields made a difference.

Review of 2018 Photography Exhibit - Tasks and Timeline – Sue stated that she will send the "Save the Date" announcement about the forthcoming Photography Exhibit in January, using the same template as

last year. Sue will be working with town staff to create the flyer for the 2018 Exhibit. The group discussed the placement of the wire racks for the Exhibit. In addition, conversation led to moving the existing wire rack with town photos once the Historic Society installs their new display/storage piece. Sue noted that she bought Command "damage-free hanging strips that hold strongly and remove cleanly." After experimenting with the Command strips and if all goes well, the group unanimously agreed that they would like to see the photos re-hung on the walls in the meeting room and in the foyer. Don said he would conduct the Command experiment with approval from the Town Manager. Sue agreed to inform the Town Manager of the plan.

Discussion and Preliminary Drafting of FY 19 CEC Budget and Review of CEC Mission Statement

Sue led the discussion of drafting the FY19 with a review of the FY 18 Budget and the CEC's mission statement. She updated the group on all the information acquired since the CEC agreed at the October meeting to move forward with researching the development of a Fitness area in South Bethany. Sue reviewed the information gathered from a meeting and site visit with Liberty Parks, the insurance information, and DE Parks grant opportunities. All the information has been recorded in the Equipment Comments document that Sue has been updating. After discussion, the group unanimously agreed that they support proposing this initiative in the FY 19 budget. Sue agreed to prepare a summary of the proposal for presenting the idea of a Fitness area at the Town Council Meeting on December 8. The group also discussed a potential partnership with the Historic Society in working on the 2019 50th Anniversary of the town's incorporation. The group concluded that the most appropriate place for the town's partner was the Communications & Public Relations Committee. Carol Stevenson, Chair of C&PR agreed with the recommendation. CEC will be involved with any planned activities and events but will not be the lead Committee to represent the town. The group also agreed to focus on the last canal road end located on New Castle Drive that contains junipers. Sue agreed to follow up with the adjacent homeowners so that Public Works can move forward with the removal. If neither homeowners wish to adopt, the group agreed to make this the Earth Day adoption. Sue will complete the draft FY19 budget and send to CEC members in January prior to the required January 16 town submission due date.

Addendum: Sue presented the proposal (see attached) for the Fitness Area at the December 8 Town Council meeting. A few questions were asked by Mayor Voveris, Council Members Saxton and Boteler regarding timing and use of the remaining FY 18 funds for site preparation. The audience had no questions. Sandy Raymond volunteered any help from the SBWC and endorsed the idea. Maureen Hartman noted during the discussion that if a Delaware State approved contractor is used, the town does not have to bid out the work. Council members Shaw and Boteler voiced their backing for the initiative after the meeting. So in summary, both the public and Council appeared to support the CEC proposal.

Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment to Holiday Party- The group agreed to meet next in February during the budget season. Sue will poll members for agreeable meeting date and time. After a motion by Pat Weisgerber and a second by Kent, the group adjourned at 11:35 to celebrate the season with 8 staff members attending the luncheon.