



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 25, 2016 – 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Welcome and Introduction of Attending Committee Members – The following members were in attendance: Sue Callaway, Chair; Diann Nazarian; Bobbe Stephan; Kent Stephan; Carol Stevenson; Garnet Timbario; and Pat Weisgerber. Due to beach/town Memorial Day preparations, Don Chrobot was unable to attend.

Public Comments and CEC Member Comments – There was no public in attendance. During CEC Comments, the following items were brought forward:

- Garnet Timbario reminded us of the idea of placing flags around the adopted canal ends and benches along Route 1 over the holiday weekends. The group agreed with the idea and Garnet volunteered to follow-up with obtaining costs and purchasing the flags. Members agreed to place flags also at York Beach Mall, Richard Hall Park and the Cat Hill entrance. Garnet's follow-up counted the need for 100 flags and found a cost of @\$70 for all flags. The group will insert the flags the week prior to July 4th weekend.

Addendum: Garnet has researched the number needed and costs of the flags and the order has been placed.

- Sue Callaway mentioned speaking with Don about improving the appearance of the sewer pipe along Route 1 and its landscaping. Don said that the task is on his list.

Addendum: Public Works has wrapped the sewer pipe with sand fence and the clematis has been planted.

- Sue Callaway noted that one of the trees surrounding the water treatment equipment at Anchorage is definitely dead and she agreed to notify Heather Sheridan about the need for a tree replacement. In addition, since there are a lot of weeds around the area, Don agreed to add mulch and spruce-up the area.

Addendum: Sue contacted Heather Sheridan and she has followed up with our request to address the landscaping at the Pump Station. In response, Public Works has removed the dead tree and the entire area will be mulched by Sussex Sewer the week of June 6.

Approval of 3-23-16 Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Diann Nazarian to approve the 3-23-16 minutes and seconded by Bobbe Stephan. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Update on Condition of grass within Route 1 Median – Sue Callaway stated that she followed up with Troy Crowson regarding the Route 1 Median and that the police department has agreed to only park in the two designated areas: 1) north of the Layton Drive light/across from New Castle and 2) across from S. 7th Street on the east side of Route 1. Sue pointed out that she had seen improvements in the police not parking on the Median after rain events. Don has also begun planting grass seed in the area immediately north of Layton and previously used by the police.

Update on SB Welcome Signs – Sue Callaway stated that the FINAL version of the Welcome Sign has been confirmed and that AdART has ordered the materials and the signs should be completed by mid-June. The new signs will be 4' X 8' and attached to 4' X 4' posts with vinyl covering. To comply with the new DelDOT regulations, the new sign will be digitally printed over a white reflective background so that when headlights shine on it, the entire sign will be seen.



Review of Adopt Program

- Update on NEW and remaining Adoptable Canal/Road Ends – the group reviewed the priority lists and the canal ends requiring maintenance. Sue confirmed that there are two new adoptions forthcoming – Boone Road end and Layton Drive road end. In addition, we have new maintenance adopters for the York Road canal end adjacent to Boone Road and the canal end between New Castle and Henlopen. Sue has met/discussed commitments with all new adopters and is awaiting final application and design information.
- Final Plans for Adopt Contest: Sue and Carol will organize the photos of each canal end and Sue will send a letter to all adopters about the forthcoming contest and thank-you party. Sue will also work with Pam to get the information and voting procedures on the website by July 8th. Sue will confirm Lords Landscaping support for contest winners. The following dates have been confirmed for the Annual Adopt Contest:
 - The Adopt Contest will be held from **FRIDAY, JULY 8 to THURSDAY, JULY 21**.
 - Contest signs will be located on **Thursday, July 7th** (Bobbe, Pat and Carol)
 - Votes will be counted on **Friday, July 22**.
 - The winners will be announced at the Adopt Thank You Party to be held on **SATURDAY, JULY 23 at 6:00 pm**.
- Plans for Adopt Thank-You Party – The group agreed on the Pot Luck style with CEC providing the main dish, drinks and traditional “canal” cake. The group also agreed to invite the artists participating in the Ocean Drive Art Program as we did last year.

Addendum: Sue contacted Mike Lord and Lord’s Landscaping has committed to funding the Adopt contest again this year at the same level as 2015. Sue emailed notification letters regarding the contest dates and the thank you party date to all canal/road end adopters on June 1 and to all artists on June 2.

Review of CEC Survey Comments & Follow-up Assignments – In order to report back to Town Council on assigned topics at the July Town Council Workshop, the group reviewed the scores and any comments from Survey responders attributed to the following four survey topics:

- Town Landscaping – Based on survey results, the group recommended continuing to placing a focus on town landscaping, town improvements and enhancements. The emphasis on property maintenance through community education flyers was seen as worthwhile by members and efforts in that regard should be continued. The group agreed that the Town should set an example in its efforts and not be seen as scolding those who do not maintain their homes as best as they should.
- Landscaping and Cleanliness Improvements – The survey indicates appreciation of these efforts as well and they should be continued and seen as a priority by the town. It was decided that the *Beautifying South Bethany flyer* and others should be sent out quarterly.

- Improve Street Lighting – The survey results in this area indicate an increased interest in improving street lighting and revealed a higher percentage than the 2011 survey. The group reviewed the comments and also the Comprehensive Plan recommendation by the Planning Commission to develop a 10-year Master Plan for lighting. First, the group did not find it necessary to develop such a long-range plan as the Town’s current plan is based on interest by individual property owners and tends to be a controversial issue. The group did however agree that future lighting replacements or additions where possible, should be the same free-standing light fixture recently installed in the Cat Hill area and elsewhere so that we establish continuity with lighting type. Some comments expressed a desire for no more lighting and others followed the survey request to indicate specific locations for additional lighting. The streets most frequently mentioned were: Anchorage and South Anchorage, Canal Drive, Bayshore Drive, and Elizabeth Way. Some individual comments noted a need for more lighting on other side streets on both the west and east sides of Route 1. The group also discussed the Town’s current street light request policy which is: 1) a homeowner requests a street light; 2) the homeowner talks with neighbors to assess their interest/support for an additional light; 3) the homeowner presents information gathered to the Town Manager; 4) the Town Manager presents the information to the Town Council; and 5) if Council approves, a survey letter is sent to affected neighbors; 6) The Town Manager brings the survey results back to the Town Council for action. The final discussion included a majority vote to have Town Council consider a lighting action along Canal Drive and Anchorage Drive. Garnet volunteered to assess where the current lighting is on Anchorage Drive and where the green electrical boxes are that facilitate the installation of the free-standing street lights.

Addendum: Per CEC request, Garnet has researched the number and locations of electrical boxes along Anchorage and has gathered the following information regarding Anchorage Drive Street lighting: Electrical junction boxes (big green boxes) are located next to or between: 1. #104 Anchorage; 2. #118-120 Anchorage (between houses); 3. #128 Anchorage (next to house); 4. #142 Anchorage (next to house); and 5. #152 Anchorage (next to house)

- Pet Waste - The group reviewed the survey comments regarding dogs, cats and pets with a particular emphasis on pet waste. The group discussed the comments focused on loose pets and pet waste. The recommendations from the CEC members are the following: 1) Do NOT support an increase in the Town providing additional bags or pet waste trash cans or stations (incumbent upon the pet owners to supply their own as pet owners are aware of their responsibility); 2) Greater enforcement (Town Code Violations) of unleashed dogs on the beach during dog permitted season; 3) Greater enforcement of dogs on the beach during the season; 4) Greater enforcement of owners and/or visitors NOT picking up after their pets (Town Code Violations); 5) Encouraging a “see something, say something” response when witnessing pet care violations; and 6) Distribute the “Pet Waste” flyer every four months via Email News Update. Some members noted that there seems to be less feral cats in the area than previously seen.

Update on Historic Photo Project (20"x 24") – Sue Callaway stated that she had no updates on the Historical Photo project as she has been working on so many other time-sensitive projects.

Update on Town Landscaping – Since Don Chrobot and Rick Gentile were not in attendance Sue listed the following updates: all plants have been planted in the rain gardens and elsewhere; all Ocean Drive planters have been painted and filled with new plants; and all art work has been installed and the decision was made to locate the artwork in different locations this year. Kent Stephan suggested that we hang additional artwork on the reverse sides of the planters. Sue noted that some are too close to neighbors' properties but asked Kent to research which planters could possibly include additional artwork. Sue also announced that Kent Stephan would match a CEC contribution toward the purchase of spring bulbs in areas around town such as the North and South Welcome Beds and perhaps York Beach Mall area.

Review & Selection of Town Christmas Decorations – The group reviewed the Christmas decoration catalogues. Some discussion followed but no final decisions were made. Kent and Bobbe Stephan volunteered to review the items in more detail and narrow down the number of specific recommendations. There was some agreement on the soldiers and penguins but further research is necessary.

Review of Committee Guidelines and Member Participation Form – Sue received completed member participation forms from all members and the 2016 CEC membership is confirmed.

Confirmation of next meeting date in JUNE and Adjournment – The group agreed to not meet in June or July as the CEC is busy working/volunteering on the Adopt Contest and Thank You Party, the Cottage Tour and also with numerous July 4th Activities. If necessary, an August meeting will be scheduled.