



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

CEC MEETING SUMMARY

APRIL 29, 2022

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

ATTENDANCE – The following CEC members attended in-person: Sue Callaway, Kent Stephan, Bobbe Stephan, Ingrid Moore, and Carol Stevenson. The following CEC members were absent: Donna Farrow, Mo Webster, Christi Bernlohr, Susan Spingler, and Jon Stifler. There was no public in attendance.

ADOPTION OF THE 11-19-21 CEC SUMMARY – After review, the summary was approved after a motion by Kent and Bobbe Stephan and unanimous committee vote.

CEC MEMBER COMMENTS – In follow-up to several issues previously discussed, Sue Callaway updated the committee on her recent conversations with Chris Vanuga, Chair of the Water Quality Committee Chair, regarding the conditions of the oyster beds at specific canal ends and the floating wetlands. Chris has confirmed that the CIB will be removing the oyster beds within the next month and that the WQC along with the town manager is discussing hiring a potential contractor to conduct specific canal tasks, including trimming and maintaining the floating wetlands. Sue noted that the SBPOA was organizing a summer kick-off event for the town and will be similar to the successful 50th Anniversary that would bring the community together. CEC member Ingrid Moore is active in the SBPOA and is engaged in the event's planning as well as other potential community activities. Ingrid inquired about other activities and events that have been sponsored by both the CEC and the CPR that might be potential SBPOA-sponsored activities. Sue also stated that the area at the corner of Evergreen and Route 1 has been cleared but final plans for landscaping cannot occur until Public Works is confident the bamboo will not return. The adjacent property owner has removed the bamboo but it has spread to the right of way area and we will need to wait to see if it grows again.

UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS – In Jon Stifler’s absence, Sue reported that the welcome beds were recently planted using a contractor, Chester River Landscaping as Rick Gentile is no longer working with Public Works. Jon also stated that the Ocean Drive tasks are completed including hanging the artwork on the beach walkways and preparing the planters for planting. Sue noted that an individual has been approved for hiring and will begin with Public Works on May 2.

TOPICS DISCUSSED – The CEC discussed a variety of topics in conjunction with current status.

- ✓ Adopt Program – SBPOA contributed funds have been used to purchase a new bench for the forthcoming adoption of the canal end at the corner of Peterson and Anchorage. Funds are also dedicated to landscaping which have been designed by the Inland Bays Garden Center. As soon as the bulkhead is replaced, the landscaping and bench will be installed. A plaque recognizing SBPOA’s contribution has been prepared. Letters have been sent to adjacent neighbors seeking an adopter who will maintain the canal end once completed. In addition, Sue announced that the Town Hall employees are adopting the canal end along Route 1 between Tern and Sussex.
- ✓ Bike Repair Station – Funds for any unexpected future repairs remain in the FY 23 budget.
- ✓ Flags for Heroes – As budgeted in the FY 23 budget, Public Works has purchased 10 additional new flags as well as several replacement flags damaged in the early May '21 summer storm.
- ✓ Little Free Libraries – The grand opening of the new LFL at Town Hall and the installation of one at a new location on York Road and a new replacement LFL at the oceanside location occurred on Thursday, April 21st in honor of Earth Day. The event offered an opportunity to recognize Frank Weisgerber who built an amazing new larger LFL for Town Hall. Many thanks to Frank for his outstanding work and volunteerism. In addition, Sue thanked the SBPOA who donated the funds for all 3 LFL projects. An email news update announcing the LFLs was sent to property owners the following week and an article by Mike Smith who covered the event appeared in the 4/29/22 Coastal Point.
- ✓ Sandpiper Village Donation – The HOA has donated \$500 to the CEC for a town project. The donation will be included in the FY 23 CEC budget. The members discussed several ideas but consensus led to recommending purchasing spring bulbs, choosing several locations and organizing a fall volunteer bulb-planting event. Sue will work with Public Works to organize future purchasing and planting of the bulbs.

SUE CALLAWAY'S FAREWELL TO TOWN COUNCIL AND CEC

Sue thanked the CEC members for their support and volunteerism over the years. The group reminisced about the early days as the Beautification Committee and its change to Community Enhancement as well as the many initiatives and projects conducted over the years. It was a nostalgic trip down memory lane! It is the fervent wish of the CEC that the committee continues as a standing committee and its mission and focus continues. The Adopt Program, which has been such a successful program, will require leadership and organization to continue its successful journey and momentum.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Kent Stephan and Bobbe Stephan to adjourn the CEC meeting at 2:55 pm and was seconded by Bobbe Stephan.