



Town of South Bethany

Committee Report for July 27th, 2022

The Canal Water Quality Committee met last on July 18th at 10:00am at the Town Hall with all members attending except for Bob Fisher. Karin Gander participated by phone.

Minutes were approved and adopted for the 7/20/2022 meeting

As an immediate action the committee is reviewing the status of the floating wetlands and intends to ask Envirotech for a priced quote to either repair/restore, relocate or remove various floats as well as for performing the necessary maintenance on those that require pruning. Once the updated quote is available the committee will request the Council to vote to approve the expenditure, which should not exceed the currently allocated funds earmarked for this purpose.

The committee is working to develop three options that would allow the Town to assume responsibility for the annual algae harvesting:

- outsourcing the entire effort to a 3rd-party contractor,
- purchasing the necessary equipment and adding personnel to perform the work
- Purchasing the necessary equipment buy hiring a contractor to perform the work

Once the committee has developed adequate information about each of these options, including estimated costs and (dis)advantages provided by each, it will make a presentation to the Council. This is expected to occur by the September 9th Council meeting due to the lead times on the potential equipment purchase. If procurement can't be done in time it may be necessary to have a 3rd party perform the work in the coming Spring of 2023 and then have the Town's chosen plan in effect and ready for the Spring of 2024.

The Committee is exploring the legal/Code options available to the Town to reduce or eliminate many of the sources of pollution that degrade canal water quality and encourage algae growth.

Water Quality Monitoring & Analysis is continuing and, as expected during the hot, rainy summer weather, the dissolved oxygen (DO) levels are very low to non-existent in some locations. Sampling this year has increased to monitor dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus levels as well as DO.

There were no public comments or public attendance

The committee will continue to meet monthly on the third (3rd) Monday of the month, at 10:00am at the Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome.

Reported by Tim Shaw – Council Liaison