

**Town of South Bethany
Community Relations Committee Meeting
Monday, September 19, 2022**

****Due to scheduled construction at Town Hall, this meeting was conducted remotely via GoTo Meeting.***

In attendance (via phone): Edie Dondero, Chair; Lisi Biciocchi, Shelly Levey

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dondero at 10:03am.

1. Approval of minutes of 7.29.2022

Minutes were approved unanimously; no comments or corrections.

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3. Re-naming of Town newsletter

Committee members and staff were invited to vote on the 16 names submitted by residents and to designate both a first and second choice. Each first choice was awarded two points and each second choice one point. Chair Dondero announced that the submission that received the most points in voting was the South Bethany Breeze. The name will be unveiled in the fall/winter issue of the newsletter which is currently in progress and will likely be sent out sometime in October.

4. Discussion of Photography Contest

Mrs. Biciocchi shared a draft set of rules and requirements for a photography contest. A discussion ensued about whether or not specific categories should be named and, if so, what the categories should be. It was decided that contestants can submit up to five photos in three categories: nature/wildlife; people/events; sunrise/sunset/landscape. Chair Dondero will share the revised draft rules with the Town Manager to get her approval. She will also ask about the possibility of displaying the winning photos in Town Hall after renovation. The contest will be publicized on the website, via email announcement, and in the monthly e-newsletter.

5. Preparations for Community Bonfire on the Beach

The second annual community bonfire is all set for October 8th. Flyers have been posted on all Town bulletin boards and email reminders will go out closer to the date. The event is scheduled from 7-9pm on South 1st Street. Chair Dondero has ordered tiki torches to be erected around the bonfire to provide more light on the beach. Roasting sticks will be

distributed as attendees have been asked to bring their own marshmallows/s' mores. Committee members attending will meet at the site at 6:30pm to prep and light the fire.

6. Sandpiper Village HOA-funded Bulb Planting

One thousand daffodil bulbs have been ordered for planting at the north and south ends of Coastal Highway near the two welcome signs. Public Works will oversee the planting of the bulbs sometime in October or November. Small signs will be installed near each planting marking the donation.

7. Preliminary Planning for December Community Event

The Committee discussed the plan to hold a tree lighting at Town Hall, pending the funding to purchase a tree. Chair Dondero raised the idea of soliciting donations from companies doing business with the Town to purchase an artificial outdoor tree. Ms. Levey offered to contact local businesses to solicit additional support. If the funds cannot be secured, the Committee will plan a different holiday event that can be conducted with the available funds in its budget. The dates of Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 10th were chosen for the to-be-determined event.

8. Other Business

Ms. Levey asked about the status of the Adopt-a-Canal program. Chair Dondero stated that there are at least two canal ends in need of new adopters and that a new adopter has taken over one of the available road ends. Over the winter, the Committee will brainstorm ideas for encouraging new adopters and will reach out directly to owners on streets adjoining the available canal and/or road ends.

The Committee discussed the idea of creating a pool of volunteers to call upon for special events and a group of "roving gardeners" who might help maintain the Town's landscaping beds and some of the canal ends.

The next meeting will be held on either October 17th or October 24th pending the availability of the Committee members not in attendance and of the meeting room in Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.