



South Bethany Canal Water Quality Committee  
November 21, 2022  
Meeting Conducted Virtually

Committee Members: Derek Abbott, Bob Fisher, Gary Lessing, Brian Moroz, Chris Vanuga, Dave Wilson

Absent: Karin Gander, Pete Trelenberg

Town Council Liaison: Tim Shaw

Guest: Richard Juliano, SB Resident

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:03am, and Karin Gander and Pete Trelenberg were noted as absent.
2. Minutes from October 17, 2022 meeting were approved.
3. Town Council Update (Tim)
  - a. There is support from Council to hire an outside firm to harvest the algae for Spring 2023 as a back-up plan to DNREC. They support longer term to have our own equipment; however, there are still questions to be address before the purchase and Town Council would like us to study it further. The main questions are concerning maintenance, storage, personnel, and management.
  - b. Tim is trying to set up a conference call with DNREC to discuss how they can help with disposal of the harvested algae. We need to get formal agreement with DNREC before we can proceed with any of the other back-up options. The call should be held in early December at the latest.
  - c. The goal is to get Council approve a contract in their December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - d. Dave will investigate timing of past algae blooms to try to narrow in the dates for harvesting.
4. Updates from Working Group on Canal Maintenance
  - a. More details have been developed to support the purchase of a harvester.
    - i. Insurance coverage for the movement and harvesting is approximately \$5K per annum.
    - ii. Three staff including a skilled operator would need to be hired seasonally to remove the algae. Concern in getting staff could be an impediment to moving forward with the purchase option.
    - iii. The working group believe it is best to buy harvesting equipment as the longer term solution.
  - b. We need to find a location for marshalling the algae before it's hauled away. In the past, we've done this on the double lots on York Street. In addition, the Gander family has offered the use of their ramp too. There is also a lot on South Anchorage as well as potential options that DNREC uses currently. This would all need to be worked out prior to moving forward with any of the options.
  - c. The working group recommended Solitude as the back-up services provider to harvest the algae in the spring if DNREC is unable to do it or do it timely. Dave and

Brian will provide recommended best date ranges to Maureen when she prepares the contract for the Solicitor's review.

- d. The Canal Water Quality Committee voted unanimously to support the working groups recommendations to hire Solitude.
5. Focus Area Updates
- a. Code Review / Communications – no update
  - b. Floating wetlands – Gary. There was no maintenance of floating wetlands in the Fall of 2021. Consequently, they didn't look that nice throughout the year. We are still working with Envirotech to get them to complete the maintenance per their contract. Chris will continue to follow-up with them to complete.
    - i. Dave arranged for analysis of the phosphate and nitrogen captured by the grassed the wetlands. Based on this data, Dave recommends only keeping the wetlands on dead-end canals. We will form a working group to decide on a path forward for the floating wetlands.
  - c. Grant Funding – Chris. There are two upcoming meetings related to funding. One is the RASCL meeting in Dover on December 6. Tim and Chris will attend. The second is on December 12 to discuss the DEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant at the Delaware Emergency Management Center in Smyrna. Chris is tentatively going. However, we really need volunteers to cover these meetings. Please contact Chris. Additionally, we need to find grant writing expertise to help our committee's efforts.
  - d. Water Quality Analysis
    - i. Sampling is now down to one sample a month until April. Water quality is excellent now that it is colder – there was skim ice this morning.
    - ii. Sampling analysis is due back soon.
6. Other Business
- a. Chris provided brief update on his research around the prior Dredging efforts in South Bethany. Identified an option to set up a Lagoon Commission to address more formally the ongoing Canal maintenance and improvements. This could also help with the financing of a future projects such as dredging along with addressing the storm water situation with Route 1. We will discuss further at a future meeting once more information has been compiled.
7. Public Comment
- a. Community member Richard thanked the committee for our efforts. He also volunteered to help with the dredging efforts.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:29am.