

South Bethany Canal Water Quality Committee
December 19, 2022
Meeting Conducted Virtually

Committee Members: Derek Abbott, Bob Fisher, Gary Lessing, Chris Vanuga, Dave Wilson
Absent: Karin Gander, Brian Moroz, Pete Trelenberg
Town Council Liaison: Tim Shaw
Guest: Angelo DeCesaris

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:03am, and Karin Gander, Brian Moroz and Pete Trelenberg were noted as absent.
2. Minutes from November 20, 2022 meeting were approved.
3. Town Council Update (Tim)
 - a. The Town Council passed a resolution to hire Solitude to harvest the algae for Spring 2023 as a back-up plan to DNREC. They authorized a total expense of up to \$50,000.
 - b. DNREC is supporting our involvement in algae management and may help with transporting it to a composting site. The details still need to be worked out on this.
 - c. The mayor would like to form a separate committee to a rising sea levels and flooding. This group could focus on long-term resiliency grants and funding.
 - d. Tim and Chris attended two different conferences (RASCL and Piglet) on how to obtain funding from the state and federal governments. Most of the funding is from the “Build Back Better” bill. The Biden institute at the University of Delaware has a group of people who can help with grant writing and applications. Town Manager, Maureen Hartman, is working on a grant request to study engineering solutions to minimize flooding on York Road. The mayor has asked the finance committee to set aside funds in the budget for grants request / cost sharing.
4. Updates from Working Group on Canal Maintenance
 - a. As mentioned above, contract is being negotiated with Solitude.
 - b. There are reports of a “rogue” floating wetland. Chris will ask Envirotech to investigate this.
5. FY2024 Budget
 - a. We need to make our requests for the Town’s FY2024 budget. All committee members are asked to send their requests to Chris before the end of December.
 - b. The Committee discussed possible budget items that included: canal maintenance and bulkhead inspection; water quality testing including University of Maryland analysis; and floating wetlands.
6. Focus Area Updates
 - a. Code Review / Communications – Bob. Bob will work with Edie Dondero on an Earth Day program for the Town. Bob will also investigate how to communicate about the condition of bulkheads and actions we can take.
 - b. Floating wetlands – Gary. Maintenance work by Envirotech should be complete. We are waiting for their written report from their work. We need to decide how to go forward with the wetlands at a future meeting.
 - c. Grant Funding – Chris. See above comments in Tim’s report.

- d. Water Quality Analysis – Dave.
 - i. Water quality is great right now. Lower temperatures result in higher oxygen absorption.
 - ii. We are awaiting analysis data from the University of Maryland.
- 7. Other Business
- 8. Public Comment
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.
- 10. Next meeting is on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 9:00am. This will most likely be a virtual meeting.