

**Town of South Bethany  
Community Relations Committee Meeting  
Monday, December 12, 2022**

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

**In attendance (via phone):** Edie Dondero, Chair; Lisi Biciocchi, Ingrid Moore, Shelly Levey, Margaret Oliver

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Dondero at 11:06am.

**1. Approval of minutes of 11.21.2022**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with no changes.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**3. Tree Lighting and Community Food Drive Results and Feedback**

Mrs. Moore reported that she received positive feedback from attendees about the tree lighting event and shared some recommendations from the food vendor (Kristina's Kitchen) for consideration when planning next year's event.

Ms. Dondero reported that she has received much praise of the event from residents. Suggestions received in the "suggestion box" at the event included having residents contribute cookies, and arranging for Santa and Mrs. Claus to appear.

While the feedback about the musician was very positive, Mrs. Oliver received comments that more holiday music was desired.

A few attendees remarked that it was hard to see during the event due to the lack of lighting in the fitness area. For next year, the Committee discussed either adding additional lighting or starting the event earlier and ending it at 5 or 5:30pm.

Mr. Biciocchi questioned whether we need to plan a rain date for next year, as her research showed that all other local communities hold their event rain or shine. If needed for inclement weather, we can always erect the canopy.

Ms. Dondero reported that she and Ms. Biciocchi delivered more than 20 boxes of food to the Cape Henlopen Food Basket in Rehoboth Beach on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The volunteers were extremely grateful for the donation and posted a thank you to the Town on

their website. The Committee members were very pleased with the amount of donations from our residents.

#### **4. Planning of Events and Projects for Fiscal Year 2024**

Ms. Dondero reminded the Committee that there are two events yet to be held in the current fiscal year: a reschedule of the fall bonfire and an Earth Day event. After much discussion, it was decided that the bonfire will be held on Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>), pending availability of the bonfire builder. For the second event, Ms. Dondero proposed a series of lectures/programs to be held in conjunction with the Canal Water Quality Committee. Featured speakers will be invited to present on topics including water quality issues in the inland bays and landscaping with native plants. Ms. Dondero will follow-up with the CWQC to confirm their interest and select April dates. The programs will include a Zoom option for those unable to attend in person.

Discussion was then held to select the events and projects the Committee wishes to complete in Fiscal Year 2024 (May 1, 2023- April 30, 2024). The events to be proposed include a welcome breakfast for the lifeguards; a movie on the beach; fall bonfire; December tree lighting; and a spring 2024 Earth Day event. Project ideas discussed include additional landscaping/beautification along Coastal Highway and a potential tree planting near the Anchorage forebay. Ms. Dondero will seek input from the Public Works Supervisor and Town Manager on these projects and report back to the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm.

*Minutes approved Monday, March 20, 2023.*