

**Town of South Bethany
Community Relations Committee Meeting
Monday, March 20, 2023**

**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 10:05am.

1. Approval of minutes of 12.12.2022

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

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3. FY2023 Project/Event Updates

The spring bulbs donated by the Sandpiper Village HOA and planted by the Public Works team last fall along Coastal Highway are in bloom. Signs were placed at the two welcome beds acknowledging the bulb donation.

The fall bonfire is rescheduled for Saturday, April 22nd, Earth Day. As the date approaches Ms. Dondero will work with town staff to determine on which street to hold the event, based on the safety of the approaching walkways. The supplies purchased for the fall event are available for use, and no additional materials are needed. The Canal Water Quality Committee is working to organize a community clean-up effort for earlier that day.

The two Earth Day-inspired lectures have been booked for April 20th and May 2nd. The first will focus on water quality in the Little Assawoman Bay and feature Andrew McGowan from the Delaware Center for Inland Bays. The second will discuss the benefits of using native plants in home gardens and yards; speakers will include the owners of the Inland Bays Garden Center. The Committee's hope was to offer both programs over Zoom as well as in-person attendance, but it cannot be guaranteed that the new audio and video capabilities will be operational by that time.

All four of the Earth Day-inspired events will be marketed together. They will be advertised in the monthly newsletter, on the website, and in the bulletin boards. Ms. Dondero will also ask SBPOA to spread the word about the events to their membership.

4. Budget Update and Fiscal Year 2024 Project Planning

Ms. Dondero reminded the Committee of the events they proposed to hold in the coming fiscal year and reported that the Committee's budget request was approved by Council. Formal adoption of the complete Town budget is forthcoming but she did not anticipate any changes to the Committee's requests.

A discussion was held about the Movie on the Beach event for summer 2023. The date of Thursday, July 27th was selected with a rain date of Friday, July 28th. The Committee agreed to target a movie that is about 90 minutes in length and discussed offering an older movie, as the newer selections were heavy on animation and Marvel movies. Ms. Dondero will compile a list of options to present to the Committee at the next meeting and, in the interim, will schedule the date with the equipment providers.

Other events to be held in the May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 budget year include a fall (Sept 30th) bonfire, holiday tree lighting on December 2nd, and an April 2024 Earth Day event. The Committee has also budgeted to purchase pizza for the lifeguards at their seasonal kick-off meeting in May as a welcome and thank you from the community. Ms. Dondero reported that the monthly Coffee & Conversation events can resume in May.

Ms. Biciocchi asked if the photo contest winning submissions were posted on the website. Ms. Dondero confirmed that they could be viewed there under the News and Notices tab and that she has spoken to the Town Manager about having them printed, framed and displayed in Town Hall when it re-opens.

5. Discussion of Adopt-a-Canal Program

The Committee discussed sending a spring email to all current adopters to confirm their continued participation in the program and to remind them of a need for a spring refresh. Ms. Dondero will work with Town staff to mail letters to those property owners near to or adjacent to the canal ends that need new adopters. Ms. Biciocchi suggested contacting the local plant nurseries to see if they would offer a discount coupon to adopters and Ms. Moore confirmed that this had been the practice in the past.

6. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting will be scheduled for April 12th at 10am. It will likely need to be held via GoTo Meeting one last time, but Ms. Dondero will confirm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.

Minutes approved 4.12.2023