

**Town of South Bethany
Community Relations Committee Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2023**

In attendance: Edie Dondero, Chair; Lisi Biciocchi, Cathy Peck. Ingrid Moore attended by phone.

Absent: Robin Philipbar

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

1. Approval of minutes of 9.14.2023

The minutes of September 14, 2023 were approved without changes.

2. Public comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3. Review of Autumn Bonfire on the Beach

The Committee discussed the fall Bonfire on the Beach held in early October. The event was attended by approximately 70 people and positive feedback was received. Ms. Biciocchi observed that it was very dark on the beach away from the fire and on the walkway when leaving the event. Ms. Dondero noted that the solar lights on the walkway handrail were not functioning and agreed to inform public works. Ms. Biciocchi suggested that use of solar tiki torches or similar for the next bonfire, as the tiki torches used in the spring were messy and difficult to manage. Ms. Peck received comments expressing disappointment that residents were asked to bring their own marshmallows. The committee agreed that the event should be offered biannually, in both spring and fall. Ms. Dondero will talk to the appropriate town staff about purchasing a fire ring and load of wood for future bonfires instead of paying a vendor for the service.

4. Request to Host a Community Blood Drive

The Blood Bank of Delmarva approached the Town about hosting a community blood drive at town hall. Ms. Dondero and town staff talked with a representative and have agreed to host the event (tentatively) on April 19th. The Blood Bank provides all the necessary material and volunteers. The committee will host and advertise the event and provide extra volunteer help, if needed.

5. Planning for December Events

Preparations for the holiday tree lighting are progressing. Ms. Moore has ordered the refreshments from Kristina's Kitchen and Ms. Peck offered to pick them up the afternoon of

the event. Ms. Biciocchi has booked the musician and will confirm his rate and convey logistics with him this week. Ms. Dondero conveyed that we can have a tent available to shield him from light rain or snow if needed. The committee agreed to have an alternate music source prepared if the musician is unable to perform for weather-related or other reasons. Resident Kira Kaplinksy has again donated ten calendars to be offered as door prizes at the event. Ms. Dondero has ordered a new lighted wreath for the lifeguard stand and has confirmed with public works that they will install the lighted snowmen decorations in the fitness area. She will also work with staff to ensure the area is sufficiently lighted during the event.

A discussion was held about whether to invite other community groups to participate in the event. Invitations will be extended to the SBPOA, women's club, and historical society. Ms. Dondero will also reach out to Santa and Mrs. Claus and their antique fire truck to see if they are available to attend. The committee viewed options for giveaway items for attendees. Ms. Dondero will order ASAP.

Ms. Dondero contacted the Cape Henlopen Food Basket and they agreed to accept our donations. Logistics of the food drive were discussed and Ms. Peck will supply boxes for transport.

Ms. Dondero will contact members by text or email the week of the event to confirm a date for tree trimming. It will likely be Wednesday or Thursday, depending on weather.

6. Adopt-a-Canal Program

At the next meeting, the committee will discuss recommendations to revitalize/improve the program or end it and turn the management of the canal and road ends over to the town. Ms. Dondero asked members to come to the December meeting with their ideas.

7. Review Process for Planning Events and Budget for FY2024-25

In preparation for the December meeting, Ms. Dondero distributed the list of programs/events from the current fiscal year and the committee budget. Budget request for FY2024-25 (May 1, 2024- April 30, 2025) are due by December 31st.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 7th at 10am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

Minutes approved 12.7.2023