

**Town of South Bethany
Resiliency Committee Meeting
Friday, January 26, 2024**

In attendance: Edie Dondero, Joan Marini, Mike Powell, Geoff Kolberg, Bob Shields.

Other Attendees: 2

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Public Comment Period

Tim Saxton encouraged the Committee to ensure the proposal received for the York Road project produces the desired outcome of a shovel-ready project. He advised that if revisions to the proposal increase the cost of the project, Council would support the expenditure of additional funds beyond the 10% match that has already been included in the FY25 budget.

3. Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2023 and January 8, 2024

The minutes of both meetings were approved without changes.

4. Update on Hiring Consultant for York Road Flood Mitigation Project

Ms. Dondero informed the Committee that the Town is in receipt of a proposal from a local engineering firm for the York Road project. The Committee reviewed the proposal and expressed some concerns. Questions/issues expressed at the meeting included the lack of CVs for project personnel; the limiting of geotechnical borings to two; and a general concern that the end result would not be a complete project design with specifications that could be used for the bidding process. Ms. Dondero requested that the Committee read and review the proposal and send her any comments or questions by early next week. She and Ms. Hartman will relay all comments and questions to the firm's representative.

5. Review and Discussion of Draft FEMA Grant Application

Ms. Dondero and Ms. Hartman have been working on a Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure (BRIC) grant application, which must be submitted to DEMA by February 2nd. After consulting DEMA staff and the engineer who prepared the Resiliency Implementation Plan for South Bethany in 2023, Ms. Dondero and Ms. Hartman determined that the project most likely to receive funding in this grant round is a Flood Mitigation Study and Design Plan for Cat Hill. To aid preparation of the grant and include a realistic funding request, Ms. Hartman requested a preliminary proposal from AECOMM for the project. The proposal recommended budgeting \$190,000 for the project, which the staff at the University of Delaware's Grant Assistant Program (GAP) who have been advising on the application, felt was fair and aligned with similar projects in other communities. An additional \$5,000 for

administrative costs will be added to the budget, making the total grant request \$195,000. Ms. Dondero distributed copies of the proposal for Committee review and requested feedback as soon as possible—early next week at latest—as the grant deadline is days away.

A brief discussion of the project ensued and questions similar to those raised about the York Road project were identified; Ms. Dondero and Ms. Hartman will seek answers and/or revisions from AECOMM before submitting the grant application.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.