

**Town of South Bethany
Resiliency Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 9, 2024**

In attendance: Rick Braid, Mike Powell, Edie Dondero, Joan Marini (virtual)

Absent: Art Burritt

1. Call to Order, Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Dondero introduced and welcomed Mr. Braid as a new member of the Committee. A second new member, Art Burritt, was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public present.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2024

The minutes were approved without changes.

4. Update on York Road Flood Mitigation Project

Ms. Dondero shared the list of tasks completed thus far by AECOM, which include background research and data review, a vulnerability assessment, and wetland delineation. She will contact the project team to inquire when they might have something ready to present to the Committee, and if they anticipate finishing the project before the end of December. The next round of BRIC grants will be due at the end of January 2025, leaving a small window of time to write a grant seeking funds to implement the report's recommended mitigation measures.

5. Update on BRIC Grant Submission

The Town received word from DEMA that FEMA has issued a "soft approval" of the Committee's \$147,000 grant request to fund a flood mitigation study and design project for Cat Hill. Final approval will come soon via a formal letter from FEMA.

6. Report on "Creating a Flood-Ready Community" Workshop

Ms. Dondero attended this May 9th workshop hosted by DNREC, Sea Grant, and the UD IPA. She came away with a number of resources that can be shared with residents and plans to work with Town staff to post them on the Resiliency Committee page of the South Bethany website. The Committee discussed whether it would be useful to host a program for residents on the theme of resiliency. Such a program might help build support for some of the costly infrastructure projects that are needed.

7. Discussion of Next Steps for Committee

Dr. Marini is attending meetings of other coastal towns and their resiliency-like committees to assess what other communities are working on. She also felt it was important for the Committee to start piecing together future grant requests, and suggested that members could contribute more and those who are willing could be assigned “homework” projects.

The priorities for the Committee in terms of next steps are:

- Grant prep (next BRIC/FMA round or other grants)
- Meeting with AECOM re: York Road project
- Monitoring the progress of the Economic Impact Study on Beach Nourishment Cost Share
- Resident Education/Outreach on resiliency-related topics
- Identifying potential Code changes to enhance resiliency

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Minutes approved September 4, 2024