

**Town of South Bethany  
Resiliency Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

**In attendance:** Rick Braid, Mike Powell, Edie Dondero, Joan Marini (virtual), Art Burritt (virtual); Kyle Gulbranson, AECOM

**Public:** 1 in person, 1 virtual

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. With the approval of members, Ms. Dondero moved the Public Comment Period further down the agenda.

**2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2024**

The minutes were approved without changes.

**3. Announcement from USACE**

Ms. Dondero read excerpts from a letter received by the Town in August from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announcing the recommencement of the Delaware Inland Bays and Delaware Bay Coast (DIBDBC) Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSR) Feasibility Study, a.k.a. the Back Bay Study.

**4. Update on York Road Flood Mitigation Project**

Mr. Gulbranson of AECOM reported that the investigative phase of the project has concluded and that the initial design phase has begun. Soon AECOM will come back to the Town with a slate of possible options. Once census is reached on desirable options, the engineering of the selected options will commence.

Notable findings from the investigative phase of the project include lower elevations on York Road than previously recorded and poor, hydric soils with considerable organic matter that limit possible roadway elevation options.

**5. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Gulbranson answered two questions from residents about the York Road project.

**6. Discussion of Potential Increase in Permitted Bulkhead Heights**

Ms. Dondero acknowledged the Town was receiving requests from homeowners to begin considering code changes that would permit the raising of bulkheads on privately owned lots. First, the Town would need to determine the amount of increase it would permit and then contract a hydrologic and hydraulic study to assess the affects of a town-wide increase in heights. The Committee would need to seek grant funds for such a study.

## **7. Discussion of Hosting a Resiliency Forum**

A discussion was held on the idea of hosting a forum in which representatives from other coastal towns would be invited to meet with this Committee and share information on their own resiliency efforts and projects. Consensus was that such an event would be beneficial and several suggestions were offered on how to maximize the usefulness of the forum. Ms. Dondero will coordinate the event and seeks the assistance of any interested Committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

*Minutes approved October 23, 2024*