

**Town of South Bethany
Resiliency Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 16, 2025**

In attendance: Art Burritt, Mayor Edie Dondero, Rick Braida, Gerry Injaian, Joan Marini (virtual), Town Manager Maureen Hartman

Absent: Mike Powell

Public Attendees: 1 in person; 3 virtual

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2025

The minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

3. Report on York Road Project Status

Mayor Dondero informed the Committee that AECOM has completed the final engineering design plans for the York Road flood mitigation effort and are currently preparing the documents for the bid package. Once they are complete, the job will go out to bid for 30 days. It is hoped that the project will be completed this fall. Council has already authorized the expenditure of funds from the Town's infrastructure reserves to fund the work.

4. Discussion of Possible Grant and Technical Assistance Opportunities

Mayor Dondero reported that the town was approached by the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center about a grant they are submitting to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) which would fund their work with communities in Delaware on resiliency planning projects, particularly those utilizing nature-based solutions. The Town submitted a letter of support for the grant; the award, if issued, will be made in November or December. If the grant is awarded, we can discuss if we are interested.. in utilizing their services and in what capacity.

Mayor Dondero and Town Manager Hartman presented a new grant opportunity from DNREC for surface water planning projects. The grant is a 50:50 match and the deadline for applications is August 20th.

A discussion ensued about which project would be the best fit for this grant. Options discussed included a York Road phase two that addresses secondary roads; a engineering study for mitigation options for Bristol Road; flood mitigation study for Cat Hill; or stormwater retrofits. After much discussion, the Committee opted to request Council approve a grant submission for an engineering study of mitigation options for Bristol Road. Maureen and the Mayor will prepare the grant application and will contact an engineering

firm to help prepare the scope and budget. Mr. Injaian was recruited to assist with this effort. Mayor Dondero will request Council's approval at the July 25th workshop.

5. Discussion and Planning of Next Potential Flood Mitigation Project

This was a continuation of the previous discussion. The plan for mitigation projects is as follows:

- Complete the York Road project in fall 2025
- Prepare a scope of work for Bristol Road and seek grant funding. If the grant is not awarded, we will ask Council to fund the work this fiscal year.
- Continue with the stormwater improvements planned for Carlisle and Plymouth Roads which are expected to improve much of the flooding on/at these two streets. Share observations with Public Works about stormwater flows on Canal and Tamarack.
- Begin to scope out a potential engineering study of current and future recommended bulkhead heights and identify the process for increasing where needed.

6. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Minutes approved August 20, 2025