NOV. 2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety (Shields)

- Bob Shields attended Bethany Beach Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee (P&BSC) Meeting on 23 October 2025
- Final 2025 South Bethany B&PSC Meeting scheduled for 13 November. Agenda items are:
    - Feedback from 10/24 Town Council Meeting
    - Motorized Scooter Discussion
    - Bethany Beach Crosswalk Improvement Discussion
    - Stop sign enhancements, (e.g. trouble spots like Russell and Canal)
    - Obscured bike paths
    - Enforcement priorities
    - Off season Pedestrian and Bicycling Hazards

Canal Water Quality (Biciocchi)

The CWQ presented the Annual State of the Canals Report to SBTC Workshop last month on October 24, 2025. The highlights of the Report represented a need to continue a direction of developing an Engineering understanding of the condition of our canals with respect to:

- Water Quality
- Water Levels
- Water Circulation
- Sediment accumulations
- Source Contaminants
- Storm Water management

The report chronicled a legacy of Canal initiatives that were insufficient to deal with the dropping oxygen levels and buildup of nitrogen and phosphate that over time have led to an imbalance in our canal water chemistry. What happens is a preponderance of algae blooms and a diminished wildlife habitat. Over the lifespan of these conditions the crab population once found off the canal docks in

swimmable water is no longer the case.

We have also lost some navigable areas due to sediment shallowing at the canal endpoints. It is observable that these shallow endpoints combined with existing lower bulkheads are most susceptible to flooding the nearby roads.

While the source waters of the Inland Bays correlate to the water quality found in our canals the problem is elevated at all canal end points where circulation is minimal and the water is stagnant.

To manage the issues the Town more recently has stepped up routine algae harvesting and general surface contaminant clean up. This has shown results in stabilizing the water chemistry.

The Report also suggests further evaluation in mitigating water circulation and sediment control by expanding the number of Forebay areas to corral sediment runoff and connecting main canal waterway endpoints with Underground Pipes.

The upside of our canal conditions is that, generally speaking, 80% of our most serious issues occur in 20% of the canal areas at the endpoints. This suggests that the deterioration is recoverable if the root causes are addressed.
For a more complete visual/data understanding of these issues please review the State of the Canals Report on the CWQC portion of the Town website.

Charter & Code (Giler)

Three existing committee members, Tom Barletta, Carl Bittenbender and Eric Compton were reappointed to the committee by the Mayor at the September council meeting. New committee members Scott Gentilucci and Maria Vershel were also appointed by the mayor.

The Charter and Code Committee did not meet in September or October. Scheduling of the next meeting was discussed among the members but is delayed until clarification on restrictions on Zoom attendance.

The only open item for the committee is consideration of an exterior lighting ordinance.

Community Relations (Keefe)

The CRC met on November 5. and discussed the following upcoming events:

- Coffee With Randy Bartholomew on November 21

- Food Drive Collection from November 28 to December 6
- Holiday Tree decorating - December 5
- Holiday Tree Lighting December 6 - 4:30 to 6pm

Also discussed were future plans for the upcoming Winter and Spring months.

Some of these events include a Spring Bonfire on the Beach on April 17, the possibility of sponsoring a Candidates Forum for the upcoming election, the "sunsetting" of the Adopt-A-Canal program, additional kid-friendly events during the summer, and a Memorial Day event.

The "Coffee with" Program will continue on February 20th, its usual scheduled time — the third Friday of the Month.

The next CRC meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Resiliency (Dondero)

The Committee last met on October 15, 2025. Code Enforcement Officer Joe Hinks attended to help the committee understand the Town's regulations on bulkheads and to share the details of the necessary approval process the Town would need to navigate in order to permit the raising of bulkheads throughout the community.

An update was given on the status of the York Road project. We are still awaiting notification of whether the grant submitted for phase two was approved.

The Committee agreed that at its November meeting it would begin to piece together a proposed scope of work for a flood mitigation analysis for Cat Hill, using the information gathered for the BRIC grant submitted in 2023. The committee will ask Council to fund 100% of the cost of the project since no applicable grant opportunities are available at this time.