

**Town of South Bethany
Resiliency Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2025**

In attendance: Art Burritt, Mayor Edie Dondero, Town Manager Maureen Hartman, Gerry Injaian, Mike Powell; and Joan Marini (virtual). **Public Attendees (virtual):** 4

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2025

The minutes were unanimously approved with one additional sentence added to paragraph 5 as requested.

A concern about the overlapping efforts by the Resiliency Committee and the Community Planning Advisory Group was raised by Dr. Marini and discussed. Dr Marini pointed out that the Mayor, when asked the same question at the recent community planning meeting, pointed out that the Community Planning Advisory Group was focusing on policy changes related to resiliency, while the Committee's primary focus has been on flood mitigation and adaptation, including identifying projects and applying for grant funding. The Mayor noted that both groups are working to advance the items in the committee's action plan and the efforts are complementary.

3. Discussion of Flood Code Standards

Mr. Powell led the group through a review of a spreadsheet detailing various flood code standards, and which have been adopted in various Sussex County communities. Several of the standards were not applicable to South Bethany. Of those that were, many of the higher standards have already been adopted by the Town.

4. Discussion of Boat Ramps with Regard to Tidal Flooding

Dr. Marini reported that she conducted an informal town-wide survey of boat ramps from the water level of the canals and mapped 91 in total, many of which are located at the lowest area of town. Mr. Injaian stated the engineering principals of his own boat ramp and his confidence it did not contribute to flooding. Dr. Marini reported that the ramps were in varying states of repair, with most not appearing to be maintained to engineering standards that would minimize a flood impact and some of which might not withstand a major storm event. She asked for consideration of a moratorium on new boat ramps until their impact could be formally considered. Mayor Dondero did not feel there was sufficient reason to enact a moratorium on new ramp construction at this time, as applications for new ramps are uncommon. The consensus was that more research is needed on whether ramps contribute to flooding, and their impact, if any, on the integrity of bulkheads. It was agreed

that any engineering analysis of bulkhead heights should address how boat ramps are to be treated if or when bulkheads are raised.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 am.

Minutes approved November 19, 2025