

MARCH 2026 COMMITTEE REPORTS

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY (Shields)

1) Committee Meeting held on 26 Feb 2026 at 1PM.

- Discussed Proposed Budgetary impact on safety related items. Committee was pleased that street markings were being renewed and appreciated support for digital speed indicators. Committee asked to make one more request for an illuminated stop sign at the intersection of Russell and Canal. Committee asked that more walking directions be applied as they are sparse.
- Discussed proposed pilot project using orange flags for pedestrians at Coastal Highway crosswalks. This concept was based on an observation of this being used in Melbourne Beach, FL by Rob Herb -- a committee member. Committee was happy to hear that Bethany Beach is considering a similar concept. Committee voted unanimously to propose the pilot project to Council.
- Discussed safety sharing opportunity hosted by Bethany Beach on 26 March. Decided we wanted to brief the pilot project and the Bike Rodeo.
- Chief Lovins provided the data which has been collected on traffic from the mobile traffic monitors. Main takeaway was that Cat Hill traffic is quite heavy even in the off season.
- Initiated Planning for the Bike Rodeo. Arrived at a tentative date of 7/11. Chief Lovins will contact ABC and Bethany Beach Fire Company to arrange for their continued support. Kathy Wood to contact DELDOT to determine what giveaways are available.

2) Bob Shields attended Bethany Beach P&BSC meeting on 26 Feb at 10 AM where he learned of their interest in orange flag pilot project.

BUDGET & FINANCE (Bartholomew)

The committee met with 5 in-person and two online. The investment strategy write-up was recommended for approval with the Chair to take to Town Council at a March meeting. The draft FY27 Operating and Capital budgets was reviewed with lots of discussion. The Chair will present these at the February 27, 2026, Town Council workshop meeting. Several areas were identified to highlight for Council's review.

CANAL WATER QUALITY (Biciocchi)

Our last Committee meeting was on December 15, 2025, and could not meet in person with a quorum In February '26 due to schedules and illnesses among CWQ members.

In review, the CWQ Chair and Member Chris Carlyle engaged the Woods Hole Group in discussion to update their previous proposal of 2018 to the Town for prerequisite engineering services in support of pursuing the qualified permitting for the Town to dredge the canal shallows.

The process would include new core sampling of our canal bed and options for use of those spoils, the bathymetric measurement of the canal depths and shallows, and a projected benefit analysis from any dredging plan that would follow in terms of water quality and marine vessel navigation. The proposal would include new requirements of aquatic vegetation mapping imposed by DNREC in pursuit of their permitting process.

The purpose at this time of the proposal is to provide Council an estimate of those services necessary in planning the financial capital and multi-year timeline requirements of a dredging project.

The proposal was submitted to the Mayor and Town Manager and discussed in the February 27, 2026, Council workshop meeting. The disposition of the proposal will be determined by the upcoming budget discussions.

Other budget planned actions are to move the line items of Seasonal Algae (Spring) and Canal Debris (Fall) cleanup efforts to be annual routine actions of the Town Public Works department. These actions may be performed by contractors and/or include Town Public Work services. Also, similarly treated, were the efforts to re-establish existing Rain Garden sites on the west side of Coastal Highway within the Town. These actions would also be planned to progress seasonally until completed.

The Committee will continue to directly measure and submit water quality sampling and report to the Town Manager those results.

At this time, the Chair does not plan any further committee meetings until the new budget and Council/Mayoral elections are completed.

RESILIENCY (Dondero)

There is no report.