

**Town of South Bethany
Resiliency Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2026**

In attendance: Mayor Dondero (Chair), G. Injaian, A. Burritt, J. Marini, and M. Powell (virtual)

Public attendees: 1 (virtual)

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.
2. Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2026
 - Minutes were unanimously approved with no comments
3. Report on Status of Mitigation Projects
 - York Road phase 2 work is underway. AECOM survey crews will be out this week conducting street, utility, and spot bulkhead surveys and mapping elevations. Geotechnical work (soil borings) is being scheduled and will likely occur this week or next.
 - Members of the Verdantas team made a site visit on May 13th. The Chair and Town Manager escorted them to several locations in town with tidal flooding issues. They collected data and will begin running models.
 - The Chair informed the Committee that the Town recently received a letter from the USACE informing us that the Back Bay study has officially been terminated. This decision was made due to the unmanageable scope and cost of the survey. DNREC, Governor Meyer, and all three members of Delaware's federal delegation pushed back on this decision and asked the Corps to reconsider.
4. Discussion of Potential Changes to Impervious and Pervious Definitions in Town Code
 - The Committee reviewed the new definitions which were drafted by the Chair and Code Enforcement and voted 4-0 to recommend Council approve them.
 - This led to a discussion of the current ordinance amendment being considered by Council that requires at least 55% of the cumulative setback area be composed of pervious material. The Committee would like Council to consider requiring that setback areas be 100% pervious and voted 4-0 to recommend this change to Council. The Mayor will introduce this recommendation at the scheduled second reading of the ordinance amendment.
5. Discuss Recommendation to Require Use of Freeboard on All Properties in the Floodplain
 - The Committee had previously voted to recommend to Council that the Town Code make the use of freeboard mandatory rather than voluntary. The discussion was re-opened at the request of a member of the Committee.

- Discussion ensued about the benefits and costs of a mandatory requirement, including consideration of potential savings on flood insurance premiums.
- The Committee voted 3-1 to recommend Council consider an ordinance that requires 18 inch of freeboard on all properties in the floodplain.

6. Public Comment

- No public comment was offered

7. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 am.

Minutes approved by unanimous vote on July 15, 2026