

## **February 13, 2024 Meeting Notes**

### **Flood Committee**

Attendees: Donnie Bowen, Carola Wilson, Elana Van Oudenaren, Tom Litke, Jay Loveless, Dave Damalouji, Stacy Milor, Bob Gray, Lisa Garrett, Gary Koopman, Donald Wilson

### **Discussion Items**

#### **1. Status of 9<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Upgrade Project**

- a. Donnie reported that BayLand Consultants have completed the set of plans—including drawings and specifications—for the project. The “scope of work” segment is slated to be drafted shortly with the RFP issued thereafter. The RFP will be active for two weeks, with a decision on the vendor scheduled for the April Town Council meeting.
- b. Several notes on the project:
  - i. As discussed in previous sessions, the proposal calls for the installation of two submersible pumps (identical to the 5<sup>th</sup> Street system, manufactured by Flyte), each capable of producing 1,200 gallon-per-minute (GPM) outflow. The discharge outlet will be located to direct the flow over the Jersey wall system.
  - ii. Donnie noted that a new check valve is being contemplated for the proposed system. He will be meeting with manufacturers in the coming days.
  - iii. Donnie is also exploring ways to accommodate the deteriorating impact of the sand and silt that flow through the pumps during operation. He says he is leaning toward including hardened impellers to mitigate the wear caused by the sand and silt.

#### **2. Updates on Grant Applications**

- a. Tom reported that the application for two \$100K grants submitted earlier in the year to the state agencies managing the Watershed Assistance Grant Program continues to work through the system. (The applications were submitted for projects slated for Greenwood Avenue (i.e., road elevation) and the Town parking lot on Bay Avenue near the new library (i.e., permeable parking surface).
- b. Tom cited additional grant programs that could present opportunities for the Town, i.e., tourism grants via the Southern Maryland Heritage Grant program, and the Green Streets program. He said plans are to pursue the latter to refresh/renovate the raised flower beds that line the boardwalk.
- c. To see the details on the Watershed Assistance Grant Program, go to: [Watershed-Assistance-Grant-Program-RFP\\_FY24-Final\\_7Sept23\[5692\].pdf](#)

### **3. Assessment of January 2024 Storm**

- a.** By many accounts, the storm produced one of the worst tidal flooding events in recent memory.
  - i.** Wave action was estimated at 3-4 feet, producing 18" of standing water in some places along 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The living shoreline in Walton's Beach took a pounding, and the tidal flow reach well into the Fire Department parking lot.
  - ii.** As it turned out, the storm produced the third highest recorded tide, approaching the October 2022 storm levels.
- b.** Bob Gray is now providing Donnie with rainfall and storm data, and Carola volunteered to assess how to re-energize efforts with the MyCoast app.

### **4. New Business**

- a.** Donnie has met with engineers for preliminary discussions on a pumping station for the 7<sup>th</sup> Street corridor. The design would be similar to the 9<sup>th</sup> Street installation, but will likely be completed in phases. The need for a new structure and land acquisition, however, does present hurdles.
- b.** Consultants are reviewing proposals for the new rip-rap installation that would be placed along the section of the boardwalk north from Hatch's Corner, with an additional 20 feet from the edge of the breakwater to 7<sup>th</sup> Street. BayLand is providing a proposal as well. Funding for the project—which will protect the sewer lines from storms and erosion—comes from ARPA contributions.