

September 13, 2022 Meeting Notes

Flood Committee

Attendees: Donnie Bowen, Lauren Kabler, Carola Wilson, Tom Litke, Lisa Garrett, Dawn Richardson, Dave Damalouji, Larry Jaworski, Jay Loveless, Ed Patterson, Elana Van Oudenaren

Discussion Items

1. Presentation from Edward Patterson of Muscle Wall.

- a. Mr. Patterson delivered a brief presentation on the commercial and residential products offered by his company, i.e., reusable 2-, 4- and 8-foot-tall flood barriers (see www.musclewall.com). Mr. Patterson spoke to a range of applications for Muscle Wall products and the possible usage in North Beach.
- b. Price for a 2-foot-tall barrier: \$450.
- c. The committee resolved to more closely examine these products at the StormCon gathering slated for September 27-28 at the National Harbor conference center (several members of the committee will be attending). Mr. Patterson will be there providing demos and more detailed information (Booth 328).

2. Updates

- a. **5th Street Pump Upgrade.** Donnie reported substantial progress: the pumps have been ordered (8-week delivery); specifications on the control panel have been approved and the respective equipment has also been ordered (8-week delivery); and the electrical contractor is on schedule to establish the control panel wiring.

The question about the efficacy of a single or dual outflow arrangement for the new pump system remains outstanding. Donnie acknowledged that whatever arrangement is ultimately implemented will be demo-ed to ensure peak performance, i.e., gallons-per-minute outflow.

- b. **BayLand Study.** BayLand reps continue to be out-and-about in the community gathering data and examining the topography in preparation for compiling the Compound Flood Action Plan. The committee decided the next phase would be to conduct a public meeting where BayLand could present its preliminary findings and seek information from residents on other flood vulnerabilities or concerns. The date selected for public meeting was October 25. A BayLand-Flood Committee preparatory session is slated for October 5.
- c. **Flood Insurance Tutorial.** Tom Litke compiled a list of local agents versed in flood insurance offerings. The list was distributed to committee members for review and recommendation.

3. Grant Opportunities

- a. In late August, the committee was notified about federal infrastructure grants available via FEMA and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) to reduce community disaster risks and provide flood mitigation assistance. The committee submitted on deadline three Notices of Intent to the MDEM for enhancing the rock revetement, constructing a new pump station at 7th St., and Atlantic Avenue, and upgrading the 9th Street pump station. The MDEM subsequently approved the NOIs and recommend developing an application to continue the process.

A decision was subsequently made to enlist the services of an experienced grant writer to prepare the three applications for submission to the MDEM. (Follow up: Tom Litke was subsequently offered and accepted the opportunity. The Mayor approved the initiative and the Town Council was notified).

- b. Luke Johnson provided information on four additional companies that provide stormwater retention systems. They will be examined along with others via the StormCon gathering.

4. New Business

- a. The Flood Committee web site was updated with the latest FAQ and Compound Flood Action Plan information. The information was also streamlined with the addition of a new “Archive” section.
- b. Committee representatives participated in two community events: the September 17 ribbon-cutting at Wetlands Overlook Park celebrating the Demonstration Rain Garden, a joint project between the Town, the Calvert County Watershed Stewards and the UM Extension Office; and the Taste the Beaches event, where information was distributed about the Town’s flood mitigation projects.

