

SFMAC MINUTES DECEMBER 2019

Membership: This Committee is comprised of Town residents and/or property owners appointed by the Mayor for a three-year term. Mayor Benton appointed three Town residents and/or property owners: Lauren Kabler, Gary Koopmann and Jay Loveless. Mayor Benton directed the Committee to work directly with the Director of Public Works (Donnie Bowen) and the Town Engineer (Paul Woodburn). The Mayor appointed Donnie Bowen as Committee Chair. The Committee selected Lauren Kabler as Committee Secretary. In addition, a representative from the Maryland Department of Planning (Sarah Sularz), attends Committee Meetings.

Frequency of Committee Meetings: The Committee will meet on the third Monday of every month at the Public Works Building, unless otherwise rescheduled.

December 2019 Committee Meeting Date and Participants: Committee members Donnie Bowen, Lauren Kabler, Gary Koopman, Jay Loveless and Paul Woodburn attended this meeting and were joined by Council Member Elizabeth Lawton and several Town residents. The Committee met at 3:00 on December 16, 2019. The meeting notes and action tracker for this meeting are below.

	Projects Discussed and/or Reported	Project Lead	Action Items
1	<p>Paul Woodburn continues to work on the design and RFP for the 7th and 9th street pump upgrades. Paul estimates that the bid will go out in February with a project start date in the Spring.</p> <p>A decision on the design and RFP for the 5th street upgrade is pending.</p>	Paul W.	Continue work on design and RFP.
2	Additional edits to SFMAC's webpage were sent to the Town Clerk on 12/12 (see December 2019 agenda for the list of edits).	Lauren K.	Donnie B. and Elizabeth L. will follow up with the Town Clerk re: status of edits.
3	<p>A Grant Tracking Table was reviewed/approved (available upon request).</p> <p>The Committee prioritized the grants (one due in January, one due in February and one due in the Spring) for action by Veronica. If Veronica unable to act on Grants due in January and February, Committee will request funds to hire a short-term grant writer to handle these grants.</p>	Lauren K.	Donnie B. and Paul W. will share Grant Tracking Table with Veronica, identify grants for priority action and discern whether Veronica can meet the deadlines for the priority action grants. If not, will seek approval from the Mayor/Town Council to hire a short-term grant writer in order to meet January and February deadlines.

4	Donnie continues to work with the Dawn on the development of a high-water alert notification for interested residents.	Donnie B.	Donnie B. will continue to work with Dawn re: development of the high-water alert and will pull in the Mayor and Town Council for help expediting, as needed.
5	The Committee will proactively coordinate with Town committees, boards, departments if/when overlapping issues/concerns (e.g., work with the Garden Committee on green infrastructure; work with the Conservation Department on educating residents on the Town's stormwater/flood plan and how they can help in its implementation; etc...).	SFMAC	Invite the entities referenced herein to an SFMAC meeting to discuss shared issues/concerns and how to work together (March or April).
6	<p>In light of the fact that the Town does not have a dedicated planning staff nor the capacity, technical expertise or financial resources to develop a comprehensive stormwater and flood plan designed to reduce vulnerability to flood and stormwater damage, the Town needs to hire a professional planner.</p> <p>Note that it is possible that EFC can help the Town draft a comprehensive SF plan, if we establish a partnership with them (see November 2019 meeting notes and December 2019 Agenda for additional information re: EFC) so we may want to wait until after our meeting with EFC prior to hiring our own professional planner.</p>	Lauren K.	Lauren K. will reach out to EFC and ask their opinion re: whether we should draft an RFP prior to or after our meeting with them (tentatively scheduled for January 27 – see item 9 below for additional information).
7	SFMAC members will attend a Nuisance Flood Plan technical workshop designed to assist local jurisdictions understand what a NFP is, how to begin to develop a plan, and to answer and technical questions.	SFMAC	Several members of the Committee will attend Dec. 19 technical workshop at the PF Library.
8	<p>The Committee identified a tentative date to meet with the Town of Oxford to learn about Oxford's flood mitigation measures and gain insight on how to begin to address flooding in our Town.</p> <p>Prepare questions and submit to Oxford in advance of the meeting.</p>	Gary K. and SFMAC	<p>Gary K. will work with the Oxford Town Manager to schedule a trip/meeting for February 24, 2020.</p> <p>Committee members should send questions for the Town of Oxford to Lauren K. for compilation.</p>
9	The Committee identified a tentative date to meet with the EFC Director and discuss next steps for establishing a partnership.	Lauren K., SFMAC	Lauren K. will work with the EFC Director to schedule a trip/meeting for January 27, 2020.

	<p>The meeting will be at Town Hall and will include a working lunch, introductions, slide show, QAs and a driving tour of the Towns flood prone problem areas (see November 2019 meeting notes and December 2019 Agenda for additional information re: EFC).</p> <p>Prepare questions and submit to EFC Director in advance of meeting.</p> <p>Prepare a slide show of the Town's flood prone areas.</p>	and Donnie B.	<p>Committee members should send questions to Lauren K. for compilation and photos of flooding to Donnie B. for the slide show.</p> <p>Donnie B. will reach out to the Mayor and Town Council re: attending the meeting with EFC.</p>
10	<p>MDOT SHA responded to a Committee Member's email asking whether, considering the Columbus weekend flooding, SHA would consider revising its design such that the new road (261) would not overtop during an exceptionally high tide, or worse. Here's is SHA's response:</p> <p>Earlier in the design process, we had considered other options that raised the road higher than currently proposed. These options were not pursued due to excessive environmental impacts, cost, and property acquisitions. The proposed roadway elevations are based on state sea-level rise projections for year 2050. By raising the road 1.5 to 2 feet and widening the stream opening at the proposed bridge, the overtopping of MD 261 will reduce (but not get eliminated). The proposed bridge has been designed to be structurally stable even during full submersion. Increasing the elevation of the road further would result in additional impacts to the adjacent wetlands and to the adjoining property owners. The additional environmental impacts would be difficult to justify given that other sections of MD 261 and connecting roads would be inundated with water. The berm belongs to the Town of North Beach, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (which is the permitting agency) did not support modification of the berm.</p>		

	<p>The changes that are requested would delay the project, increase the costs, and provide little benefit. For these reasons, we are not raising the proposed height of the berm or the roadway.</p>		
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