

**Notes (draft)**

**July 29, 2021 Meeting**

**Stormwater and Flood Mitigation Committee**

Attendees: Donnie Bowen, Stacy Milor, Gary Koopmann, Luke Johnson, Sarah Sularz, Lisa Garrett, Elana Van Oudenaren, Dave Damalouji

**Discussion Items**

1. Status of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Project.
  - a. The project to install new pumps to manage the stormwater flooding on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the surrounding area continues to move ahead, albeit slowed by summer scheduling.
  - b. Donnie Bowen reported that the Town Council has approved the awarding of the pump contract to the Sherwood Logan company and that he has initiated a purchase order process with the Town to start manufacture of the pumps. A 12-week lead time is expected between receipt of the purchase order and actual delivery of the pumps for installation.
  - c. A separate RFP for the pump control panel is expected to be posted shortly. It will be edited in line with item d below.
  - d. In a related development, Donnie reported that the Town has been notified by State Senator Jackson's office of its eligibility for a \$95,000 grant from the state of Maryland to assist with stormwater management. To secure the funds, Donnie is planning to use the documentation prepared for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street pump project and have it tailored according to the grant's specific requirements. An outside firm that is experienced in these submissions has been contacted. Deadline for submission is November-December.
  - e. Although the 5<sup>th</sup> Street pump project will be cited in the Town's submission for the \$95,000 state grant, Donnie confirmed that pursuit of the grant is on a separate track from the actual pump project, i.e., installation of the pumps will move ahead while the grant process is underway.
  - f. It is conceivable the grant money could be used to offset the 5<sup>th</sup> Street project or help fund the 9<sup>th</sup> Street pump project.
2. Status of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Project
  - a. The design of the pump upgrade was completed by Gary Koopmann, and Donnie reported that he expects to submit the plans for the upgrade to the Town Council next month.

3. Discussion of protocol for deploying the temporary/mobile pump to address 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street flooding pending completion of the planned upgrades.
  - a. This query was raised last month in Donnie's absence in consideration of the pump upgrade schedule and the predictions of an active storm season.
  - b. Donnie assured the committee that the DPW closely monitors the weather circumstances and is prepared—now that department staffing has increased—to rapidly deploy the mobile pump as needed.
  - c. DPW uses the pump to manage various storm and sewer issues around the Town.
4. Discussion of protocol for deploying the temporary/mobile generator to power 9<sup>th</sup> Street pump during electrical outages.
  - a. See above discussion, re: DPW readiness.
  - b. Of note: the mobile generator can deliver 80kw of power.
  - c. Donnie said he will be considering including a “quick connect” capability in the 9<sup>th</sup> Street pump upgrade design to promote rapid deployment and use of the mobile generator.
5. Discussion of website updates.
  - a. Dawn Richardson submitted written updates to the list of items to be posted.
  - b. All items were completed, including the MyCoast link, Town Council update slide deck (on BoardDocs), Senator Jackson paper, DNR Phase I (on Teams), DNR Phase II contract (to be posted upon delivery from Donnie), and 5<sup>th</sup> Street documentation.
6. Funding updates.
  - a. The mayor signed the Phase II funding contract in July. Sasha will notify Donnie when the DNR has completed its complementary sign-off.
  - b. The committee is anxious to begin assessing and recommending firms to undertake the work involved in Phase II.
    - i. Related to item b... Lauren Kabler had previously distributed to the committee a letter-to-the-editor from a recent issue of *The Capital Gazette*, the Annapolis daily newspaper. The letter came from David Jarrell, City Manager for Annapolis, who was responding to a public comment alleging a lack of response from the city to persistent flooding problems. In the letter, Mr. Jarrell outlined the extensive work the city had done to deal with the flooding and documented the positive results. Donnie reached out to Mr. Jarrell and secured a meeting

with the city's Public Works Director as well Chief of Engineering & Construction to ask questions and visit City Dock. The meeting/visit is planned for August 6.

7. Discuss draft Education & Engagement Plan.

- a. There was general agreement that the draft plan prepared by Dave Damalouji was structured correctly, the key messages were appropriate, and the proof points were germane. Most of the discussion involved what should be added to the plan.
- b. Luke Johnson pointed out the lack of specificity regarding target audiences and tailoring specific messages to reach those audiences—particularly as it involved using social media. He committed to circulating a document on the best means of reaching audiences via social media and to help adjusting the EEP accordingly.
- c. Lisa Garrett noted the list of proof points did not include any of the conservation measures she has spearheaded that helped North Beach residents manage stormwater. She committed to developing a companion list of proof points for the committee's review.
- d. Lisa also raised the issue of a slogan or a logo associated with the plan. The committee agreed to revisit the slogan proposed earlier, "Resilience is a community's ability to sail ahead".
- e. Dave committed to making the proposed changes to the EEP and distributing draft #2 to the committee for the next meeting.
- f. Dave also committed to reaching out to Dawn for her comments and to offer assistance, as needed, for creating the content outlined in the plan.

8. New Business

- a. Sarah announced to the committee that Mayor Benton has accepted a speaking role at an meeting of the Maryland Planning Commission Association set for October 26-27 in Solomons. He was invited by Sasha's group (the Maryland Dept. of Planning) to address the Town's work with the UM's Environmental Finance Center and the DNR on a comprehensive flood action plan. The audience is expected to include public and citizen planners from across the state.
  - i. The committee agreed it should take proactively provide the mayor with a robust package of information he can use to communicate the Town's efforts with this important audience. We see it as a terrific opportunity to showcase the Town, the efforts being undertaken, and the help we've received (e.g., DNR, EFC, Dept of Planning, Senator Jackson, etc.).