

## MINUTES

**Minutes from Dewey Beach, Delaware, Infrastructure Committee Meeting  
Life Saving Station, Dewey Beach, DE 19971  
Friday, January 27, 2012, 6:00 p.m.**

### Opening Ceremonies:

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Judge at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call: All members were present: Rick Judge, Mike Harmer, Albert Genemans, Mark Nordquist, Don Gritti and Susan Slye. New members Don Gritti and Susan Slye were introduced.
- IV. The agenda for the January 27 meeting was adopted.
- V. Minutes from the May 13, 2011 meeting were approved.

### Regular Agenda:

1. Bayard Avenue Project. The Infrastructure Committee (IC) voted unanimously to recommend to Town Council acceptance of the Mid-Atlantic proposal for pump maintenance and service on a six-month trial basis. The only change in the proposal is in section K where the IC advises adding the term "cleaning" to the sentence (checking for debris and cleaning debris).

Rick Judge reported that he had met with a representative from Cajun Cove to respond to their concerns about the flood gates and drainage. Judge reported that DNREC is happy with the project and that Todd Fritchman of Envirotech advised that the berm has not been compromised. The cost of electricity to run the pumps, combined with the cost of the maintenance agreement with Mid-Atlantic and berm maintenance, is within the budget allocated for maintaining the Bayard Avenue project. The contract for maintaining the berm has been awarded to Envirotech. Mark Nordquist and Susan Slye were appointed IC liaisons with Envirotech on berm maintenance.

Noting that the pump station has required one "reset" since it became operational, Mark recommended and the IC agreed to check the warranty on the pump station and follow through to ensure that it is functioning as it is supposed to.

Rick Judge pointed out that the pump station will be surrounded by a locked, seven-foot fence and that the vault will be painted. There was discussion about identifying a fencing company and allocating funds and manpower for this project, which will be undertaken in warmer weather.

2. Storm Water Utility. After discussion led by Don Gritti and Mike Harmer on a potential storm water utility, it was determined to take no further action at the present. Mike Cotten pointed out that, when a jurisdiction implements a storm

water utility, additional responsibilities that are currently handled by DNREC become the responsibility of the Town.

3. Existing Storm Water Pipes/Condition of Roads. Rick Judge reported that the Town has applied on January 26 for a surface water matching planning grant for storm water quality improvements and upgrades. The grant would incorporate the evaluation of the Town's existing storm water pipes and lead to creating a Master Plan for upgrading Dewey Beach's aging storm sewer system. Judge said that if we get the grant the Town will be able to complete the bayfront evaluation. There was discussion about which jurisdiction is responsible for sanitary sewers. It is believed that they are managed by Sussex County. Albert agreed to investigate this. The Town manages storm sewers, and Sussex County blows them out periodically. Rick Judge acknowledged and thanked Mike Cotten of Cotten Engineering for the time and expertise Mr. Cotten donated to developing the high quality grant application and documentation that were submitted.

Albert Genemans then turned the discussion to the condition of the Town's street and shoulders and the need for performing on-site evaluations of streets and shoulders for potholes, drainage problems and the need for maintenance. Don Gritti and Susan Slye volunteered to support Albert in this street-by-street examination.

4. Sunset Park and Dagsworthy Street. Rick Judge and Susan Slye described the depositing of sand over the years by the Bay Resort and on what is now the site of Sunset Park. The Park benches have been buffeted by tides and weather, and the area has not been adequately maintained. Rick said that a grant from the Center for Inland Bays was possible and would fund upkeep and improved conditions.
5. Public Use of Parks. It was pointed out that Monigle Park and Sunset Park are excellent places for public activities. DNREC suggests using public parks for activities such as kayaking and paddle boarding but does not offer financial incentives to do this.
6. Read Avenue. Peter Lucas, a resident of Read Avenue, told the Committee that Monigle Park, which was created at the end of Read, was a popular park, but has degraded. When a low spot developed several years ago, sharp rocks were brought in to fill it. Albert Genemans and Mike Harmer discussed the history of the project and why it was undertaken. They recounted that the park was created as part of an aesthetic improvement and cleanup project, although incidental to removing and cleaning up the broken-up asphalt and other debris, some broken existing drainage piping had been replaced.
7. Residential Area Street Lights. Rick Judge reported that he had received feedback from property owners about increasing street lighting on residential streets. Judge suggested that getting public feedback on lighting would be important before proceeding. Judge stated that outdoor lights on 12-foot poles could provide a

softer light and could be more appropriate for the residential parts of town. The 12-foot lights cost only \$100 each and cost \$25 each a month for electricity. Mark Nordquist suggested we encourage residents to put up lamp poles in their front yards with 70-100 watt lighting with soft yellow or pink bulbs. The Committee was directed to the Sunspot building on the beach at McKinley for an example of the shorter lamps.

8. Highway One Street Lights. Don Gritti briefed the Committee on the status of the Highway One lights. There is concern that there is a need for replacing all the lights because they are aging and have been stressed over the years. The Town lost a pole on Route 1 during Hurricane Irene. FEMA paid 75 percent of the cost of replacing it, and Dewey paid 25 percent. The Town pays \$800 monthly to operate the street lights on Route 1. High Pressure sodium lights are not an option for replacement lights; they would have to be LED, because LED lights use less electricity. The cost of replacing 18 poles (supporting 36 lights) would be \$62,000. The Committee questioned why the Town pays to light a state highway and determined that this was likely part of the agreement Dewey made with the State in 1981 when the Town was incorporated. Also, DelDOT should be approached about paying for these lights. If the lights, however, remain the Town's responsibility, the Town could look at an alternative to the very tall poles. Perhaps the 12-foot poles could be considered for Route 1 (as well as in the residential areas) in the context of creating a "streetscape" along Route 1. The issue of street signage was also mentioned. Commissioner Laird, in the audience, affirmed the importance of signage. Mayor Hanson, who was also in the audience, suggested that the IC, if it addresses signage, should coordinate with the Quality of Life Committee, which is currently addressing signage.

It was noted that there are four lights at Indian Beach and that the Town should investigate whether it is also paying for Indian Beach's electricity/lighting.

9. Infrastructure Committee Funding/Long-Range Budget and Amending the Road Repair Ordinance to an "Infrastructure Improvement Ordinance." (Agenda items 9&11). The IC voted unanimously to amend the ordinance restricting road funds for road repair to include infrastructure improvements. It is important to keep in mind that any use of these funds is subject to approval by Council. The grant applied for on January 26th required the Town's commitment of \$25,000 (which would be paid if the grant is awarded). If Town funds are limited to road repair, the required commitment of a "match" of Town funds could not always be supplied.
10. Discuss and vote on recommending Cotten Engineering to Continue Storm Water Management & Design for Dewey Beach. The IC, by roll call vote, recommended unanimously that the Town retain Cotten Engineering, for a minimal fee, so that Cotten Engineering could be available as we proceed with grant applications and storm water improvements. Cotten Engineering has been cooperative with the Town through many stages of projects over the last two years, and his work has given much success to the Bayard Project and the current grant application.

Committee members praised Cotten's expertise as a civil engineer and his ability to serve as a resource when structural or electrical engineering issues arise. The Committee agreed that retaining Cotten Engineering was a very good investment for Dewey Beach.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.