

THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS
300 MILL STREET
P.O. BOX 206
ST. MICHAELS, MD 21663

Settled 1670-1680
Incorporated 1804

Telephone: 410.745.9535
Facsimile: 410.745.3467

Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission Meeting
West Harbor Road/East Chew Avenue Flood Mitigation Study
Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 5pm

Call to Order –Meeting opened at 5:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Roy Myers, Dennis Glackin, John Marrah, Dr. William Boicourt, Dr. Andrew Thaler, Doug Rollow, Jon Clarke and Town Administrator Rob Straebel, Town Planner Steve Ball

Guest Attendees: Sasha Land, (DNR) via zoom and Brent Jett, GMB consultants in person.

Minutes: Mr. Myers requested to review and consider approval of the minutes at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

None.

Overview:

Mr. Myers opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Jett who proceeded to review his proposed conceptual sea level rise and stormwater mitigation plan. He noted that a written report will provide more details of the various parts of the plan and include cost estimates. He noted that additional design work is needed for the large boat ramp area to mitigate flooding in the area.

Mr. Myers noted that the waterman's unloading dock off the ramp area needs to be raised along with the adjacent lands to 5' elevation in order to blend the design with other components of the plan near the hotel. He further stated that the finger piers in this area will need to be raised and that the pilings will be replaced.

Mr. Rollow asked about the slip width. Mr. Marrah asked about the height of the parking lot and that it also needs to be at 5'.

Mr. Jett noted he will move the concrete edge of the large ramp to blend it properly into the plan. There was a general discussion on the ramp size and elevation details. Mr. Jett noted that the parking will be asphalt and that is OK with the critical area because it is a water dependent use.

Ms. Land noted that GMB previously said the pervious pavers were a good option and noted such in the Lewes, Delaware example and that it would help storm water management better. Mr. Jett responded that it is based on the property and site elevation and that it may not be the best option in this instance, at lower elevations. The cost to benefit is not a good fit in this project. Mr. Myers said that we should include pervious pavers as a potential option, even if it cost more. He then noted we need to include pedestrian access ramps to the walkway along the bulkhead and Mr. Jett said he will do so.

There was a general discussion about the walkway and bulkhead. A question was raised about the pump-pipe outlet locations, which was said it would be underwater, but the upstream head pressure will force the water out and backflow preventers will stop the inflow of water into culverts.

Dennis Glackin stated he would like additional details in the drawings or in the report including cross section of the vaults, kayak design samples and that the kayak launch area needs to be flipped over on the site plan to provide more room for boats in the adjacent slips.

There was further discussion by the commission members about needing additional park design details and to show some improvements as well as access to the walkway area. It was suggested to remove the drainage vault designs from the park area and to show additional landscaping. A good park design will help to better get public support.

There was discussion about the number of steps needed for the finger piers and that if the piers were set at 3.8-foot elevation, then one step to them from the dock would suffice for now.

The schedule for the next report will be to have a draft to review by November 1st and then a presentation to the Town Commissioners on November 8th. Mr. Jett noted that the report will likely include details to 60% design standards instead of 30% as required by the contract because the additional work was needed to determine if the designs could work. Mr. Jett suggested the town apply for a FEMA implementation grant for all the improvements, but it could be phased over time. He also noted the report will review cost data and include the pervious surface as an option per the discussion, although the costs would be greater. Ms. Land (DNR) noted that the report should include the details and recommendations to support the final plan designs.

Announcements

Mr. Myers gave the commission an update on the various work underway.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Minutes approved as submitted by 6-0 vote in favor on the 9th day of November 2023.


Roy Myers, Chairman