

THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS
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Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 4pm

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting opened at 4:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Roy Myers, Dennis Glackin, Dr. Andrew Thaler, Doug Rollow, Dr. William Boicourt, Town Planner, Steve Ball, and Town Staff, Kris Kakabar. Public attendees: two in person and one via zoom.

Minutes

Mr. Myers requested a motion to approve the Climate Change/Sea Level Rise (CC/SLRC) minutes from November 9, 2023, with the recommended changes as discussed. Moved by Dr. Boicourt, seconded by Mr. Rollow and carried on a vote of 5-0.

Public Comment:

No public comments.

Items from CC/SLR Commission for discussion:

GMB Report/Town Commissioners Presentation:

The George, Miles, & Buhr, LLC December 5, 2023, presentation to the Commissioners of St. Michaels (COSM) was well received. Commissioner duPont inquired if it is possible to secure \$3million for this, Mr. Jett, GMB project engineer, replied there is funding available, but it is becoming more competitive. His second question: Should we consider floating docks for this area? Findings show that most towns have used fixed piers, while marinas focus more on floating dock installations, however this topic was not a focus part of this study and will need to be investigated later. If floating piers are proposed, it will likely require changes to the Harbor lines, which will involve the Waterways Advisory Board. Approval was received to locate funding sources. Therefore, the CC/SLRC's next step for this project is to apply for detailed design grants. During the design phase, we will need to explore the cost/benefit ratio of one large pump station versus numerous individual pumps.

Steve will request stormwater data analysis in electronic and paper format for future modeling uses, the final report, and the invoices from Mr. Jett. Sasha Land, DNR representative providing guidance through the grant process, has requested some changes in GMB's final report.

BayLand Report/Town Commissioners Presentation:

Anna Johnson, BayLand Project Engineer, presented her final draft report to the Commissioners of St. Michaels on December 13, 2023, which was well received. We will share her final report with the CC/SLRC once received. She covered three areas in her presentation:

1. 30% concept design for the area at Back Creek Park Living Shoreline (next will be final design and permitting)

2. \$20,000 additional funding needs for assessment of a Tide Gate under the Natural Trail
3. North Street report assessment of the storm water concerns. This includes simple cleanups of the culverts, sewer pipes and vegetation that could be addressed sooner. Further discussion of these action items and funding sources for the next analysis of the North Street area will occur with Envision the Choptank in January 2024. Steve Ball has suggested this organization may manage this project, as they have already been active with the community in this area.

Mr. Myers will write a letter of gratitude to Anna Johnson, project engineer BayLand.

DNR Grant Submission for Back Creek Living Shoreline and Tide Gate Assessment

This DNR Outcome 2&3 grant request has been submitted by Steve Ball, Town Planner.

MDEM Advanced Assistance Grant – Kickoff Meeting:

A meeting, with Casey Rauch, Rauch Engineering, and his landscape architect was held to establish a projected timeline for the Mill Street corridor project. An invitation was extended and accepted by Dr. Boicourt to attend forthcoming MDEM meetings as a representative/liaison for the CC/SLRC and Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM).

The project schedule is as follows:

January 9, 2024: First input session with the landscape architect and the CC/SLRC. Input from Community in attendance will be received.

January 25, 2024: Input session for residents from Cherry St. and Honeymoon Bridge area

January 31, 2024: CBMM input meeting

April 11, 2024: Discussion of two draft concept plans with CC/SLRC. Comments from the public at the meeting will be encouraged.

May 9, 2024: Public presentation of two concept plans

May 22, 2024: Presentation to the Commissioners of St. Michaels (a second meeting may be necessary)

Casey Rauch would work on the construction designs and permitting the second half of 2024.

The current Town Hall property, previously purchased with Program Open Space funding for \$1million in 1999 of which the state covered \$750,000, will fall under open space restrictions for future use when the Town office moves. Some potential options include stormwater mitigation and expanding park options.

Discussion Planning for 2024:

MDEM study will progress as above in the first 6 months.

During the first quarter of 2024, the CC/SLRC will investigate options for W. Harbor Road/E. Chew area grants (\$100,000 plus 20% contingency is needed for this area).

Potential 2024 Meetings and Grant Discussions:

1. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to research potential grants for stormwater management efforts in our area.
2. Rural Maryland Funding – Grant requests are due by the end of the first quarter. This grant option can be combined with an MDEM federal grant.
3. FEMA – Meeting with Barbara Smith
4. Request Envision the Choptank grant experts guidance.

5. We will need a grant of approximately \$120,000 to complete the design work for W. Harbor Rd./E. Chew Ave.

We should hear about the DNR Outcome 2&3 grant decisions by the end of summer, followed by contracts, kickoffs, and RFP's, should we be approved.

An open invitation was offered to view Mr. Rollow's bulkhead renovation for added height protection for rising sea levels as a cost-effective comparative option for other areas in town.

A Thank You for a Great 2023

Mr. Myers extended his gratitude to the CC/SLRC members and town staff for all their contributions in 2023 to make this year such a success!

Public Comment

Expression of sincere gratitude for the work the CC/SLRC has done for the St. Michaels Community.

Discussion Items


Welcome by Steve Ball to Kristen Payne, new Town Clerk.

Adjournment

Mr. Myers requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rollow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Boicourt and carried through on a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Minutes approved as submitted by 5-0 vote in favor on the 9th day of January 2024.



Roy Myers, Chairman