

Subj: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Vote to Establish Three Ad-Hoc Committees: Stormwater and Tidal Flooding Committee, Telecommunication Committee and Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee at the 10/16/2020 Council Meeting. Item: IV. New Business. F.

Background

At the present time much of the ongoing work of the Town Council is initiated or studied by boards, committees and a commission composed of citizen volunteers and individual Council members. Three are independent bodies mandated by State law: The Planning and Zoning Commission; the Board of Adjustment; and the Board of Assessment. Six committees address specific issues and activities. These are:

- Audit;
- Budget and Finance;
- Cultural and Historical Affairs;
- Charter and Ordinance Review;
- Design Review Committee for the Town's business districts; and
- Fourth of July Parade.

These boards, committees and commission perform valuable work for our Town government and citizens. In addition, the Council has an important responsibility in establishing the Town's goals and priorities based on circumstances and citizen concerns, such as dealing with the COVID-19 crisis and longer-term issues. Since some of the significant long-term issues require ongoing attention, as well as educating and securing support from other government entities and organizations, they cannot be fully accomplished in a single year. However, each year voters have an opportunity to evaluate Council performance and progress in advancing those goals and priorities.

In the past year, we've seen the fruits of much of the commitment and effort of the Council and the Town Manager, most recently in the addition of new median and pedestrian lighting on Route 1; in the announcement regarding Comcast's decision to offer cable and internet services to Bethany Beach residents; in the scheduled beach replenishment; and in the recent bladder dam study to help alleviate flooding.

As the work to accomplish our long-term priorities becomes more complex and time consuming, I'd like to propose for Council consideration the formation of three ad hoc committees, each headed by an individual Council member, to be responsible for three of those priority areas. This will allow us to divide the work of the Council into manageable segments, with each Committee providing reports and recommendations to the full Council.

The three ad hoc committees I have in mind are:

A Stormwater and Tidal Flooding Committee chaired by Bruce Frye;
A Telecommunications Committee chaired by Patrick Sheplee; and
A Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee chaired by Faith Denault.

Accordingly, I move that the Council approve the formation of the three named committees and direct the Chair of each Committee to report to Council at our next meeting with a statement of purpose as well as possible members for Council consideration and vote.