
CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

BOARD MEETINGS:

Are held virtually or in person at the discretion of the CAN President
CAN Board Meetings are open to the public

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Are held virtually or in person at the discretion of the CAN President

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BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2023

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Chuck McFadden (President), Tom Puglisi (Secretary), Jane Weeks (Treasurer), Brad Rice. Four of 11 members being present, a quorum of the Board was not achieved.

Board Members Absent: Roman Jesien (Vice President), Andre Duerinckx, Mary Ellen Jesien, Rick Klepfer, Dave Thatcher, Sharon Smith, Judd Vickers.

- 1. Opening Comments.** CAN President Chuck McFadden convened the meeting at 6:30 pm at the Dorchester County Public Library, 303 Gay Street in Cambridge. Chuck welcomed everyone in attendance and encouraged anyone who has not yet joined CAN to do so through the CAN website at <https://CambridgeCAN.org>. He noted that membership is free, although donations are always welcomed. He explained that two of CAN's major activities are helping our neighbors and distributing information about local government, local events, and other local issues. All those present introduced themselves. Chuck noted that Donna Towers has volunteered to run for a seat on the CAN Board.
- 2. Secretary's Report.** CAN Secretary Tom Puglisi reported that CAN membership now numbers 592 individuals and that CAN's complete email distribution list contains over 700 addresses. The CAN Newsletter now goes out monthly, and the November edition will be distributed during the week of November 19. Tom noted that elections for CAN Board positions beginning in January 2024 will be held at the Annual Business Meeting in January, and he encouraged CAN members to consider running (see attachment below). Nominations must be submitted to Roman Jesien, Chuck McFadden, or Tom Puglisi by December 15, 2023.
- 3. Make Cambridge Resilient Initiative - Living with Water.** Chuck introduced Mr. Mr. White, Project Director of the Make Cambridge Resilient Initiative. Mr. White stated that recommendations from the initial flood mitigation plan resulted in identifying the need for more planning efforts and community improvement projects to make Cambridge Resilient to sea level rise and more severe storms due to warming oceans. These recommendations formed the basis for the new community development program included under the Resilience Initiative, which now includes projects to reduce and treat stormwater city wide, restore fish habitat and improve water quality. Goals of the Resilience Initiative include flood protection, capturing and treating stormwater, and maintaining a

living shoreline that restores habitat and ensures water quality. Several projects are currently underway and will be funded under a combination of Federal and State funding programs.

Mr. White indicated that the Flood Mitigation Plan involves the evaluation of the impacts of sea level rise and more severe storms due to warming oceans contributing to both existing and future flooding problems. Strategies emphasize identifying funding opportunities to produce co-benefits for the environment, economy, and community. He pointed out that we now have a dynamic situation with sea level rise, warming oceans, and stronger storms. To address this situation, the Flood Mitigation Plan has evolved into a Make Cambridge Resilience Initiative that includes multiple efforts to adapt to climate change such as development of green infrastructure, integrating flood mitigation into City Planning, addressing flood mitigation needs along Cambridge Creek, development of an professional environmental workforce, and the development of a plan and financing for maintaining of all our new flood mitigation infrastructure. The City has been working closely with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science at Horn Point for design support and is now collaborating with the "Envision the Choptank Partnership," a consortium of non-profits such as Shore Rivers, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others to develop a comprehensive model for the City's Community Climate Adaptation Plan that provides for flood protection, stormwater management, habitat restoration and enhancement of water quality that will ultimately lead to economic develop in the City.

Mr. White explained that grant applications are currently pending for approximately \$18M in funding for our flood mitigation project along the Choptank River that includes the Earth-fill and Rock Embankment, living shoreline, and stormwater management system. The Cambridge shoreline needs continuous protection extending from Pinks Pond to High Street. The elevation of the proposed embankment would be about 7 feet above mean sea level, and the living shoreline would be placed on the water side of the embankment.

Mr. White clarified that green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage water and create healthier urban environments. An example of green infrastructure is the proposed Mill Street Nature Way that would create a green park to capture storm water for slow release where condominiums were originally planned adjacent to the Mill Street School. The City is actively working cooperatively with the developer and is in the process of securing grant funding to complete this project initiative. Mr. White announced that there will be a meeting next week with local residents to discuss the project.

Mr. White stated that the project team is working on options for reducing stormwater runoff. He explained that there are currently ten storm sewers in Cambridge with no backflow prevention mechanisms so water backs up in the street during high tides. In addition to installing backflow prevention mechanisms, one option would be to create slow-release stormwater storage at the low end of Great Marsh Park, but there is much to be done to make this happen. Three pumping stations would be needed under this option (one at Water and Mill Street, one at Long Wharf, and one at Great Marsh Park). (In addition, because of aging infrastructure, flood water currently seeps into the sanitary sewer system, causing sewage to back up onto Water Street. The City is about to begin a project to fix this problem.)

In response to questions, Mr. White indicated that the design for the flood mitigation project will extend over the next 12 months and will include the permitting process. The City of Cambridge will

be providing 10 percent matching funds, half of which is being covered by a DNR grant. The ongoing costs of maintenance the embankment and living shoreline is expected to be about \$100 per linear foot, and the project team is working on option for funding it. Public meetings are being planned for additional projects, including Cambridge Creek.

Additional information can be found on the Make Cambridge Resilient Initiative's website at <https://www.makecambridgeresilient.org>

Chuck thanked Mr. White for his presentation, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

ATTACHMENT-- CAN Board of Directors

TERM ENDING JANUARY 2024

1. President: Chuck McFadden
2. Treasurer: Jane Weeks
3. Member at Large: Mary Ellen Jesien
4. Member at Large: Dave Thatcher
5. Member at Large: Judd Vickers
6. Member at Large: Brad Rice
7. Member at Large: Vacant

TERM ENDING JANUARY 2025*

8. Vice President: Roman Jesien
9. Secretary: Tom Puglisi
10. Member at Large: Sharon Smith
11. Member at Large: Andre Duerinckx
12. Member at Large: Rick Klepfer