

TIDELINES

A Bower's Beach Community Update | February 2014

Welcome from the Mayor

"Please take a moment to read about some of the great work that your friends and neighbors are doing to improve our bayshore community. We invite you to join us at our next meeting to participate in this important effort!"

- Mayor Ron Hunsicker

Mark your calendar for our next meeting!
6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, at Town Hall



Coming Soon

A community design study is being planned by DNREC to explore how the F&W parking area might be better-used to satisfy town needs.

A date/time will be announced soon!

Update: Murderkill River dredging project is slated for completion by late-winter 2014!



Since Summer 2013, we have been working closely with the University of Delaware's **Working Waterfronts Initiative** and a number of state agencies to make much-needed improvements in our town.

Summary Report Published

During Spring 2013, University of Delaware staff interviewed a number of community members to gain a better understanding of our town and its aspirations.



Here's a bit of what we shared:

1. Change needs to occur within the context of our maritime culture/fishing village.
2. The most commonly expressed desired amenity is a general store/gas station.
3. Keeping the Murderkill River navigable is analogous to DelDOT keeping our roads passable.
4. A visitors' center or bathhouse might be ideally sited on the F&W asphalt parking lot.
5. The concept of low-impact tourism is generally accepted as a means to bring new revenue to town.
6. The commercial district should be rezoned/relocated.

Infrastructure Improvements

We installed new road signs directing visitors to the public beach access.



We designed and installed a new informational kiosk at the public beach access area.



We had the no-parking area at the public boat ramp restriped.



Looking for up-to-date information about our town? Check out the newly designed website at:
www.townofbowersbeach.org



About the Working Waterfronts Initiative



To address the needs of our maritime communities, the University of Delaware initiated a program to focus efforts on sustainable development of our working waterfronts. In partnership with DNREC's Bayshore Initiative and community stakeholders, the program hopes to:

- Invigorate coastal communities and economies.
- Foster increased resiliency and productive for water-dependent business,
- Ensure that seafood harvest, production, and recreational fishing opportunities continue to support vibrant coastal communities and economies.

To learn more, contact:

Ed Lewandowski, Coastal Communities Development Specialist
edlew@udel.edu or (302) 645-4253
Delaware Sea Grant, 700 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958

Channel Dredging Project

Initial project schedule (may run a little behind due to the recent severe weather):

- Pre-construction meeting - 1/14/14 at South Bowers Beach.
- Mobilization of equipment to project site - 1/15/14 and 1/16/14.
- Dredging of unsuitable beach fill material and placement in offshore site - 1/17/14 through 1/19/14.
- Dredging of suitable beach fill material and placement on South Bowers shoreline - 1/20/14 through 1/27/14.
- Demobilization of equipment from project site - 1/28/14 through 1/31/14.



Jetty Rehabilitation & Major Beach Replenishment Project

DNREC's initial plan: Complete the channel dredging project, jetty rehabilitation on the north side of the Murderkill River and major beach replenishment work at Bowers and South Bowers in that order and in quick succession.

It was a very aggressive plan which required everything had to fall into place expeditiously to make it happen. Unfortunately, that did not occur as planned. As a result, DNREC modified and expanded the scope of the project, which will be beneficial to both Bowers and South Bowers in the long run.

DNREC's current plan:

- Rehabilitation of jetties on the north and south side of the Murderkill River in the spring/summer of 2014.
- Major beach replenishments at North and South Bowers in the fall/winter of 2014.