

## 1. Meeting Materials

There is no agenda available for this meeting. Please review the minutes.

Documents:

[WCAG REPORT 7-8-2025 MINUTE 07-08-2025 \(PDF\).PDF](#)

# CONNECTING Chesapeake Beach



Walkable Community Advisory Group (WCAG)

7/8/2025

Next Meeting: July 22, 2025, 6:30pm, Twin Beaches Library, Meeting Room East

## I Ongoing Projects and Efforts

1. The following projects are with staff for action and are included in the WCAG report for the purpose of tracking:
  - A. Chesapeake Village Sidewalk to Beach Elementary School (BES): This project is funded under the Capital Improvements line item in the budget. The project is being tracked on the Town Administrator's report and the Town Engineer's report. A 30% design and other documents can be found on the town website. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Highway Administration (SHA) is in place for a state grant-funded (80% State/20% Town cost share) sidewalk design project. The town sent an RFP to SHA for review in June. The most recent update as of this report is that SHA was scheduled to meet with Town staff on 7/8 to discuss procurement options, however a summary of the discussion not was not yet provided at the time of this report.
  - B. Boardwalk Connector, 261 across from the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department: This project is not funded or prioritized. A feasibility study, an alignment document, and a cost estimate can be found on the town website. Further coordination will be required with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and SHA. The WCAG will evaluate how this project should be prioritized and will determine next steps.
  - C. Safe Crossings/Pedestrian Safety throughout town: The Town Administrator and Laura have reached out to Ms. Tran/SHA to schedule a meeting. Laura reached out most recently on 7/8 and is still awaiting a response.

2. The following efforts that will impact WCAG projects require staff action and are included in the WCAG report for the purpose of tracking:
  - A. Submit MDOT Priority Letter: Complete. See WCAG Report, 6/4/2025 or Town Council Agenda, 5/15/2025 for details.
  - B. Include Railway Trail projects in the Calvert County Program Open Space document: Complete. Program Open Space projects that were submitted by the Town Administrator to the County were approved by the BOCC on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The WCAG is in the process of confirming acceptance from the state. Railway Trail projects and acquisitions projects that are key to WCAG goals were included in the plan.
  - C. Renew Sustainable Community Designation: The recertification application is due in 2026. Town staff is leading the effort to complete the application in coordination with the Green Team. The WCAG is working with the town to explore ways to contribute as well.
  - D. Restore Habitat Protections on Calvert County and Maryland State maps: The Town Administrator's update as of this report is as follows: The Town Planner has spoken with her colleagues, and they have confirmed that habitat protections are on County and State maps. Laura emailed the Town Planner with questions related to specific maps on 6/30 and is awaiting a response. Additionally, the WCAG will take time to learn how to locate existing maps with protections documented so that information related to the protections can be shared with the public.
  - E. Support Rural Legacy Designation for Fishing Creek Watershed: The Town Planner will take the lead on this. The WCAG will assist with advocacy for the 2026 Rural Legacy application as needed.
  - F. Preserve and Secure the 200+ acre FIDS property: This can be accomplished through development negotiations and agreements.
3. The following efforts are being conducted by the WCAG in anticipation of future projects.
  - A. WCAG Meetings: A kickoff meeting was held on June 17, 2025. Six members were present to introduce themselves to the group and discuss priorities. Meeting minutes will be approved at the next WCAG meeting on July 22, 2025. Members have been working between meetings and have volunteered to initiate a variety of tasks. It has been a very solid start! Additional updates will be coming soon.
  - B. Website Updates: The WCAG is in the process of updating our committee page.
  - C. Market Research: WCAG committee members are collecting and reviewing templates/examples of RFP's that were used for recently completed trail design projects in other municipalities with the intent of referencing them to draft an RFP for Council review in the coming months. WCAG Committee members will continue to collect information from local companies and not-for-profit organizations who have valuable skills and knowledge related to trail network construction, preservation, and land management.

- D. Maryland Municipal League Engagements: Laura attended the Maryland Municipal League conference and was able to engage with vendors and panelist with experience in implementing “complete street” projects and pedestrian safety projects. Laura has product samples and catalogues to share with the WCAG and Council and there is an opportunity to schedule a presentation by one of the vendors at a future Town Council meeting.
- E. Review of Previous Efforts: Members of the WCAG who had participated on the committee previously were able to provide an overview of previous efforts to new members at the kickoff meeting in June. The committee will do a deeper dive into these projects at a future meeting.
- F. Coordination Meeting with Mayor Wahl- TBD. Laura will reach out to reschedule.
- G. Engagement with SHA: Laura spoke with SHA on 7/8/2025 to receive updates and to discuss next steps related to the sidewalk project from Chesapeake Village to Beach Elementary School. Laura also reached out to SHA about other projects related to safety improvements along Rt.261 and is awaiting a response. WCAG committee members hope to have an opportunity to provide input and participate in discussions with SHA related to these projects, and Laura will work with the Town to facilitate this.

## II Upcoming Activities

- A. Reschedule Coordination Meeting: Laura will reach out to Mayor Wahl to reschedule a coordination meeting for WCAG efforts.
- B. Next Meeting: 7/22/2025
- C. Sustainable Maryland Training and work session- confirming session date with Town Administrator.

Report Submitted by:

Councilwoman Laura R. Blackwelder