



Walkable Community Advisory Group (WCAG)

Meeting : August 19, 2025 6:30pm

Twin Beaches Library Meeting Room East

Meeting Minutes

I. Member Updates and Observations: Councilwoman Laura Blackwelder (Chair), Justin Dudash (Co-Chair), Stephanie Sperling, Anne Carey, Charlie Fink

Group observations included:

- A. The Town of Chesapeake Beach closed trails recently for dead tree removal, prompting safety discussions.
- B. SHA has added bike lane emblems on 260 & 261, improving visibility for cyclists.
- C. A resident requested bike racks, suggesting a potential community need.
- D. With the upcoming SHA meeting on 8/28, the group emphasized the need to identify requirements to initiate safety projects.

Group updates included:

- A. Mayor supports idea for boardwalk connector projects
 - o Requests an RFP
 - o Focus on pier/board-type structures compatible with DNR
 - o Requires an Engineering Design Firm and cost estimate.

II. Status of Ongoing Projects and Efforts:

- A. The group reviewed status updates from the WCAG Report 8/12/2025 with no additional questions.
- B. Updates from the most recent Town Council Meeting were not applicable.

- C. The Town Administrator confirmed via email that a scoping meeting for the Chesapeake Village (CV) sidewalk was held, and a vendor has been selected. A meeting with SHA regarding additional safety projects is scheduled for 8/28.

III. Brainstorming:

Brainstorming focused on outreach, safety projects, and boardwalk connector projects.

Key ideas captured included:

A. Outreach (how/when?):

1. Consider waiting until the 30% design stage or a ribbon-cutting event to share substantial updates.
2. Include a mention of WCAG in the Town's email newsletter with a link to the WCAG webpage.
3. Explore a "Walktober" social media activity (e.g., competition among residents with a small prize or a friendly rivalry with North Beach residents).
4. Taste of the Beaches event in September was deemed too soon to pursue.

B. Review and discuss PowerPoint presentation: The group reviewed the draft slide deck for the SHA meeting, noting additional photos and support are forthcoming. Suggested adding bright paint to demark heavy pedestrian zones at major intersections for visual awareness of shared crossings.

C. Discuss next steps for tackling Railway Trail and Boardwalk connector projects: The group wants a consultant to evaluate a proposed network of railway trails/connectors to neighborhoods and the town center. Mayor's support was noted, with an RFP needed for pier/board structures, DNR compatibility, and an Engineering Design Firm cost estimate.

IV. Sustainable Maryland: Meeting at Town Hall August 20, 1pm. All members present requested a meeting invite.

V. WCAG Action Items:

- A. Finish the draft of the SHA PowerPoint slide deck for safety crossing projects, keeping it concise ("less is more").
- B. Brainstorm requirements for an RFP related to the previously mentioned boardwalk connector projects.

VI. Set goals for next meeting, scheduled for September 16, 2025.

- A. Finalize outreach plans.
- B. Refine our message/goals for outreach: "What do we want to communicate?"
- C. Develop actionable plans for supported projects, including the boardwalk connector RFP.

