

**BPAC NOVEMBER 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

**5:30PM – Meeting Commences**

**Attendance:**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Alexander McRae, Chairperson <i>Term expires: 11/2027</i>	X
Mary Buffington, Vice Chairperson <i>Term expires: 10/2026</i>	X
Dr. Alexander “Sandy” Pope, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 10/2026</i>	X
John Sater, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 08/2028</i>	X
Saraleigh Monroe, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 04/2028</i>	X
Tom Horton, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 09/2028</i>	X
<b>City Council</b>	
Angela Blake, Council Liaison	X
<b>City Staff Support</b>	
Nick Voitiuc	X
Saujanya Guragain	X

- The October 14, 2025, minutes were presented. Sandy moved for approval, seconded by Mary, and the motion passed unanimously.
- The October agenda was approved on a motion by Saraleigh, seconded by Sandy.
- Saujanya provided a brief overview of the Maryland Eastern Shore Trail Network (MESTN) meeting he recently attended. He noted that attendees shared challenges encountered during the initiation of trail projects and the administration of associated grants, as well as lessons learned. He observed that these challenges were similar to those currently faced by the City in administering both new grants and older grants from prior years. Saujanya also shared that MESTN expressed a willingness to collaborate with communities to advance grants associated with rail trail projects on the Eastern Shore.
- Tom asked whether a map of existing and planned Maryland Eastern Shore trails was available; Mary responded that it is available on the MESTN website. Alex inquired about the nature of these trails, and Saraleigh stated that her understanding was that the majority are rail trails. Saraleigh also shared that MESTN plans to assist interested communities with grant writing and coordination to help facilitate trail projects.



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- Angela inquired about state-related grant funding that the City did not execute for rail trail projects. Nick stated that he was unsure of the specific grant and would provide an update once additional information was available. Angela indicated that she would share the relevant details with Nick. Angela noted that a portion of this funding was associated with the Safe Streets and roads for All (SS4A) grant and requested that the City provide a presentation or report summarizing all active grants, expended funds, completed work, and any state grants that were approved but never executed. Regarding the SS4A grant, Nick shared that the City submitted a scope change proposal to the grant agency, which is currently under review, and that the grant has not yet been executed. He explained that the revised grant amount reflects scope changes based on administrative preferences (no hardscaping in roadways) and cost changes due to market fluctuations and inflation. Tom inquired about the SS4A grant deadline; Nick responded that a strict deadline has not yet been provided. Tom agreed with Angela that additional details on the SS4A grant would be helpful. Mary also expressed support for developing formal grant documentation. Nick mentioned that the City had shared the entire SS4A application with the committee a few months earlier.
- Saraleigh requested an update on the Fitzwater Street redesign. Nick shared that a design sketch for the project is complete.
- Saraleigh asked whether the rail trail project was on hold. Nick stated that he located email correspondence from 2019 indicating that the railroads denied easements for rail trails, which complicates proceeding along the railroad corridor. Saraleigh noted that the MESTN committee would be willing to assist the City with grant applications and coordination if the administration is interested and demonstrates a willingness to participate. Mary asked whether, if railroad easements are not permitted, the City could pursue easements with private property owners. Nick responded that this could be possible, subject to a review of existing deeds, agreements, and right-of-way availability.
- Sandy referenced the Salisbury Rails with Trails Master Plan (August 2018) and stated that his understanding was that most easement issues had been resolved at that time, with the exception of the Main Street crossing.
- Alex provided an update on the recent Council presentation, noting that it was well received, and expressed interest in continuing the presentation annually.
- Saraleigh shared that the Bike Party was scheduled for the following evening (November 14, 2025).
- Saraleigh and Mary discussed BPAC's collaboration with other committees and groups to improve outreach. The group discussed promoting events on BPAC's Facebook page to improve outreach efforts.



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- Saraleigh requested the development of BPAC graphics for Salisbury Bike Friendly Businesses.
- Sandy confirmed that he would organize the upcoming Bike Valet for the Third Friday event.
- Alex reminded the group that one BPAC committee member position remains available.
- Saraleigh inquired whether anyone knew a City-affiliated realtor with whom she could discuss the potential value rail trails add to land and real estate, as well as a potential committee appointment. Mary stated that she would share a contact with Saraleigh.
- Saraleigh announced that the Bike Parade is scheduled for December 7 at 1:00 p.m.
- Committee members proposed canceling the December BPAC meeting due to historically low attendance and late cancellations in previous years.

**6:30 PM- Meeting Adjourned**