



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway
Fenwick Island DE 19944
302.539.3011 * Fax: 302.539.1305

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Members Present:

Gardner Bunting, Tim Collins, Diane Tingle, Gene Langan, Merritt Burke, Pat Schuchman

***Absent:* Reid Tingle, Gabby Mancini, Marc McFaul, Kristi Maravalli**

***Public in Attendance:* Adam Horn (*Ropewalk*), Gerry Garrett (*Lady Fenwick*), Paul Cuda (*Claddagh on the Shore*), Kathy Castrovillo (*PNC Bank*)**

Flag Salute and Call to Order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Diane Tingle made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2014 meeting, seconded by Gene Langan. Motion passed.

Items for Discussion:

Gardner Bunting began the meeting stating items for discussion at this meeting were goals and the sign ordinance.

Tim Collins stated that the January 21st meeting with Ted Williams of Landmark Engineering was well attended with a large representation of the business community although the meeting dealt more with commercial zoning regulations. The purpose of this group is to address issues more relevant to commercial tenant concerns such as parking, signage and a need for open communication between the Town and business community.

Tim further commented that he would be in favor of circulating a survey to business owners asking what concerns or type of changes would be favorable to promoting their businesses along the Coastal Highway corridor. For instance, he suggested a one-year temporary permit could be allowed to promote a new business by giving them more exposure than what we presently allow.

He also mentioned the more recent trend of new businesses renting a single unit in shopping center buildings or existing businesses downsizing their store space from multiple units to a single one. The result was where there once was needed only one sign would now require more than one. He recalled an earlier Board of Adjustment hearing where a commercial property owner was given a variance to enlarge their existing multi-use sign from two signs to four signs.

Gerri Garrett, owner of Lady Fenwick, agreed the need for less restrictive sign allowances in the business community and in particular would like to see signage changed in the Fenwick Square Shopping Center where her business is located. Tim responded this is something she would need to speak about this with her landlord.

Tim also expressed his belief that shared parking with adjacent neighbors is a good idea and could eliminate some parking issues for businesses. Gardner commented on the Town's efforts last Summer to sell parking permits for employees to park on side streets during the day and striping to easily identify parking areas.

There was some discussion on having more involvement in this committee by the Chamber of Commerce. Kristi Maravalli will be asked to help with e-mail addresses for members located in Town.

After discussing a survey being distributed to the business community, Merritt Burke will send out a postcard to all business owners and commercial property owners after for their suggestions for parking and sign concerns. Results will be made available at the next meeting for further discussion

The next Business Development Committee meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Diane Tingle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gene Langan. Meeting adjourned 3:20 p.m.