



# THE TOWN OF Fenwick Island

Winter 2022 Newsletter

## FENWICK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

**Vicki Carmean**  
Mayor  
vlcarmean@verizon.net

**Jacque Napolitano**  
Vice Mayor  
jnapolitano@fenwickisland.org

**Bill Rymer**  
Treasurer  
wrymer@fenwickisland.org

**Natalie Magdeburger**  
Secretary  
nmagdeburger@fenwickisland.org

**Janice Bortner**  
Council Member  
jbortner@fenwickisland.org

**Paul Breger**  
Council Member  
pbreger@fenwickisland.org

**Richard Benn**  
Council Member  
rbenn@fenwickisland.org

## TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND

**Address**  
800 Coastal Highway  
Fenwick Island, DE 19944

**Phone**  
302-539-3011

**Fax**  
302-539-1305

**Police**  
302-539-2000

## IMPORTANT DATES

Next Town Council Meeting:

January 28, 2021 @ 3:30pm

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR... FENWICK ISLAND'S GOALS FOR 2022

A new year is always filled with anticipation. But before going forward, the Council would like to look back to express its appreciation for the Town's enthusiastic staff members and community volunteers who have helped to lay the groundwork for the current positive changes. Without this effort and support, progress would not have been possible. So a big "thank you" goes out to everyone for Fenwick's accomplishments during the prior months. Now the Council is preparing to use this "wind at their backs" to move forward with future goals.

According to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." As such, here are some of the steps (in alphabetical order) we are looking to take in 2022:

**Bayside Flooding:** Perhaps the biggest problem facing the Town, a.k.a. bayside flooding, will require many "steps" to resolve. Thanks to the efforts of the Infrastructure Committee, a Resiliency Study will soon produce long needed recommendations for improving storm water runoff. Tidal surge flooding, another form of that same problem, will also require special mitigation strategies. In addition, the FI Public Works crew has been busy replacing ineffective and aging drainage valves that exacerbate street and property flooding. Fenwick intends to use available ARPA grants to fund the projects.

**Code enforcement:** The Charter and Ordinance Committee (C & O) members have tackled this with a multi-faceted approach that includes reviewing current concerns as well as a professional codification appraisal. Various Town committees are also looking at specific issues to be further considered by the C & O Committee. All recommendations from the C & O must go to the Council for final approval.

**Dredging the Canal Exits:** Although disappointed by recent attempts to locate a site for "dredged soil" deposits, the Dredging Committee has moved forward with consideration of another promising location. Currently, the Town is waiting on results from required soil testing by DNREC and archeological studies by the Army Corps of Engineers. More announcements about progress are expected in the coming months.

**Dumpsters:** Recommendations from several committees (Residential, Commercial Development and Beach) have prompted a review of current dumpster ordinances. As a result, a letter outlining the regulations has been sent to all existing businesses, which now are on notice to comply with the rules. In addition, committees have sent suggestions to the C & O Committee regarding dumpster proposals for future commercial construction. Plus, the Beach Committee has tackled the problem of overflowing trash containers at the beach ends with plans for additional trash pickups as well as new, attractive trash bins constructed by the Town's Public Works crew.

**Sidewalks:** Granted some changes have required a few more "steps" than others, such as the construction of the Town's sidewalks along Route 1, which have been under consideration for the best part of two decades. However, the Pedestrian Safety Committee will shortly be reviewing the final contract for a five to six block construction phase of sidewalks along Route 1, to begin hopefully in the fall. Although some Reality Transfer Tax (RTT) money has been set aside for construction, most of the funding has been made possible with the assistance of State Representative Ron Gray and a possible grant from Sussex County.

**Wind turbines:** A big push by foreign wind companies is a serious concern that will no doubt impact Fenwick's future. We are not talking about plans for one or two giant wind turbines along Fenwick's horizon, but rather hundreds which threaten to destroy not only our piece of paradise but also a very fragile marine environment. The Environmental and Beach Committees are looking into ways to counter these unwelcome changes.

**Workshops:** Luke Mette, Fenwick's new Town Solicitor, recently offered FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) training sessions for Council Members as well as the Town's staff, including the FI Police Department. Above all else, we share in the belief that your town must operate with an open, transparent government process. Moreover, the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission members took part in similar training to insure that all the State rules and guidelines are followed during their meetings.

**Your Involvement:** As an added but important addition to this report, please note that your input is welcomed and appreciated. Please refer to the Town's website ([fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://fenwickisland.delaware.gov)) to keep informed about dates/times for future Town Council and committee meetings.

Best regards, Vicki Carmean, FI Mayor