



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

DREDGING COMMITTEE MEETING
August 22, 2022
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING HELD VIA HYBRID METHOD

DRAFT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

J. Pyne, J. Armstrong, S. Magdeburger, G. Murphy and W. Rymer at Town Hall

OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS:

T. Pratt – via Zoom

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (in person or via zoom):

Several residents and members of town council in-person and via zoom

Rymer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the committee discussed and approved the draft minutes from the June 28, 2022 meeting that were previously provided to the committee.

The Committee discussed the following items:

- Town received a \$350,000 award grant from the state of Delaware in connection with the 2023 Bond Bill. Representative Ron Gray was instrumental in achieving this award.
- Rymer provided an update regarding recent conversations with Delaware State Parks (owner of Seal Island). Very positive feedback and consistently support the Seal Island project. Rymer, Murphy and Ram Mohan (Anchor QEA) presented information to a much larger audience that included representatives from DE State Parks as well as DNREC's Divisions for Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Conservation, Shore Birds, Species Conservation, Waste and Hazardous Materials, Shoreway Management and Watershed Stewardship. Largest concern coming from Division of Fish and Wildlife primarily related to negative impact on fish. Follow up email received from Div of Fish representative expressed less concern about negative impact after their initial research. Still have work to do but favorable email response about Seal Island and impact on fish. Also discussed initial engineering designs since that is one of the larger DE State Parks concerns (ensure design is adequate/sufficient to provide reasonable protection against future erosion). Positive responses and support across the entire group. Lastly discussed potential "kayak launch" disposal site – new concerns regarding future erosion (need for jetty or hard structure on south end to contain material) and potential choking of wetlands that already exist if beach is expanded or dune created to support terrapin habitat.



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- Tony Pratt mentioned the idea of entering into a “land lease” agreement with DE State Parks for possible usage of Seal Island for small events (Yacht Club). S Magdeburger also mentioned the idea of future Earth Day Clean-ups.
- Rymer then mentioned that the real estate developer that owns the property on the west side of Little Assawoman Bay has expressed interest in re-engaging with the town to receive dredge materials on their property. Real estate developer was not able to commit to receiving dredge materials in October 2023 (likely dredge construction period) and needs to revisit their schedules. Will continue to stay in touch as things progress. This would be a cheaper option than Seal Island and should remain in consideration.
- There was a quick discussion about future grant research and a recent proposal from a third party to provide consulting support (aprox \$7,500 to identify all appropriate grants and then charge an hourly rate to complete selected grant applications). This will be further discussed and analyzed at a later meeting once we identify the specific disposal of the dredge material. Rymer also mentioned multiple grant opportunities that are being researched and possibly applied for (NOAA and others).
- Committee also discussed additional funding opportunities directly from the state of Delaware in addition to the successful Bond Bill funding. Next steps to include discussions with Senator Hocker in September.

The meeting was then opened to public participation.

Natalie Magdeburger – asked about funding directly from DNREC if they want to use Seal Island in the future. Also, potential to coordinate town’s project with DNREC dredging of Little Assawoman Bay.

Vicki Carmean – expressed concern regarding timing of DNREC’s dredging of the North/South channel in Little Assawoman Bay (unlikely to happen in near term)

Janice Bortner – expressed support for utilizing Seal Island – best option not just for this initial phase but also makes Phase 2 easier (future dredging of canals/lagoons) since there will already be a disposal site available.

Steve Ross – expressed appreciation for the committee’s efforts and interest in joining committee in future

No other public comments.

The committee’s next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Armstrong and seconded by Murphy to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.