



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Colleen Wilson, Janice Bortner (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom), Vicki Carmean (Zoom), Deborah Cowell (Zoom), Liz Lear, Pam Pridgeon

Others present: Dianna Harris, Kathy Hessler, Rose Mary Hoy, Mike Hoy, Sebastien Kraft, Kathryn Lienhard, Natalie Magdeburger, Paul Wilson

Staff Participants: Pat Schuchman, Lori Dabbondanza

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by chair, Colleen Wilson, at 9 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2023

The minutes of the November 8, 2023, meeting were approved on a Susan Brennan/Liz Lear **MOTION**.

MOTION passed unanimously.

2. Comprehensive Plan Progress

Susan Brennan discussed the progress of the comprehensive plan. She noted that the plan has received approval from the Town Council. Additionally, we are expecting to hear from the state any day. At that point, if we receive their approval, we will move forward with creating an ordinance in consultation with C&O which will add the enforcement of the plan. The plan implementation includes a 6-month progress report, currently scheduled for the end of March and an end-of-year report in September. The Planning Commission is required to do a yearly report.

3. Offshore Wind Update

Colleen Wilson noted that US Wind has offered several coastal towns a community benefits package in the amount of approximately \$100k per year in exchange for the towns not objecting to the construction and implementation of



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the wind farms off the Delaware coast. She shared that Fenwick Island is proud of our mayor and town council for their opposition to this project. The project has the potential to completely change our coastal community and we are glad we'll be able to voice our opposition to this project now and into the future. Of utmost concern is economic, environmental and safety issues related to the wind farms. Discussion followed. Deborah Cowell suggested sending a letter to legislators expressing opposition. Dianna Harris joined the meeting and shared some information that Ocean City is working on (Save our Horseshoe Crab and Protect our Coast Delmarva). She discussed several ad campaigns they are working on to inform the public about the harm associated with offshore wind. She indicated that the deadline to send letters is fast approaching. The ad campaign, which will appear beginning this week in The Coastal Point, contains contact information for all local mayors. She shared the importance for us to recognize that decisions made by them will ultimately impact our town as well. Homeowners' associations may be a good way to inform the public about the hazards associated with offshore wind as well. Colleen asked if Janice Bortner would look into gathering HOA association contacts so we can do some outreach.

Colleen Wilson noted that she has contacted Senator Hocker about holding a public information meeting and is awaiting a response from him.

Dianna Harris also shared that on January 20, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. there will be a Congressional hearing in Ocean City at the Convention Center regarding offshore wind. Everyone was encouraged to attend that hearing. She has also been invited to a virtual meeting with Congressman Vanderwende on January 18. She agreed to share any follow-up from that meeting with us.

4. Pollinator Garden Update

Susan Brennan shared that she is excited about the pollinator garden. Paul Wilson has stepped up and agreed to build some raised beds for our project. Paul has also built a bench for the pollinator garden and has agreed to make 5 more benches, with the possibility of more in the future. They are working on putting together a list of plants for consideration. The committee is discussing ways to have the community contribute to the garden as well. Susan Brennan noted that it is not our intention to be exclusively native, however, we'd like to get as close as possible. She'd like to begin ordering topsoil in May, if possible. Discussion followed.



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There was a tree giveaway in Georgetown recently and we were able to acquire a small magnolia tree, thanks to Paul Wilson. Colleen Wilson suggested that a good Arbor Day activity for the committee would be to replant that tree.

5. Upcoming Events:

a. Dune Grass Planting

DNREC has indicated that we will be on the schedule this year which will take place on March 16 from 9 am – 12 noon.

b. Earth Day Planning 2024

Earth Day this year will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Planning for that will begin at our February meeting.

6. New Business

None

7. Public Participation

Natalie Magdeburger thanked the committee for their work on wind farms. She believes we are at a tipping point and will be working on a message from the mayor to share more information with the public.

8. Next Meeting

February 7, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Town Hall

9. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by Susan Brennan/Liz Lear.

MOTION passed unanimously.