



The Town of Fenwick Island

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 7, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Staff Participants: Pat Schuchman, Lori Dabbondanza, Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

1. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2024

The minutes for the January 10, 2024, meeting were approved on a Susan Brennan/Liz Lear motion.

2. Offshore Wind Update

Colleen noted that she was able to attend several meetings concerning offshore wind over the last month. She shared that general consensus from the public at each of the meetings was to urge their towns to not take the money that is being offered. Natalie Magdeburger added that she believes they are delaying the vote and the money that is being offered wouldn't kick in until after the approval. She also noted that beach replenishment funding may be used to get people to agree to the wind farms off the coast to help offset the cost of replenishment. There are a lot of companies that want to be part of the wind farms here in DE. Colleen Wilson discussed a tentative community meeting that is scheduled for February 29. She will follow up with Hocker on the details and share that with the committee. Natalie Magdeburger stressed the importance of keeping this in the news and getting the word out to keep the public informed.

Additionally, Colleen noted that she, Natalie and Pat met recently with Kathryn Linehard from the Sea Grant Group. She is a resource available to us to provide information on wind farms. She is very new on the job and still learning about the issues.

3. Pollinator Garden Update

Susan Brennan noted that Paul Wilson is working on constructing the raised beds for the Pollinator Garden. The structure of the shrubs and garden will be planned once the boxes have been placed. They would like to meet with Inland Bays Garden Center to

finalize the list of items to install in the garden. There will be a total of 7 planter boxes in the garden. It will be important to consider the amount of sun the garden will get. Susan Brennan will get back in touch with the soil resource to get pricing information and availability. She noted that we may also want to consider putting mulch on the top of the beds to maintain moisture. Perhaps we should consider a weed and feed treatment prior to the planting.

4. Earth Day Planning 2024

Colleen noted that Earth Day festivities will be held on April 20, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall. The Environmental Committee will be preparing for activities related to the event in the coming weeks. They will be focusing on offshore wind education as well. Dianna Harris from Ocean City may be a good resource for us to contact to see if she'd be willing to attend the event and share information about offshore wind.

Supplies for the event will need to be ordered, including gloves and compostable bags. Susan Brennan shared that she'd be willing to put together seed balls as a giveaway for volunteers that day. Liz Lear will investigate getting small pots of parsley to give away and create a pamphlet that discusses the importance of parsley for eastern black swallowtail butterflies. Janice suggested offering the nursery a free table to advertise in exchange for free plants to give away. Susan stressed the importance of keeping the focus on town clean-up that day.

Colleen will put together a write-up for the event and share that with Town staff for advertisement in newspapers, the website, and Facebook. Coffee, juice, pastries, and donuts will be available that morning for volunteers. The Town will pay for expenses related to Earth Day. Susan Brennan, Janice Bortner, and Pam Pridgeon agreed to help with setup for the event on Friday, April 19. The large Earth Day banner will be placed in the park on April 1. The smaller one will be placed inside Town Hall the day of the event. Colleen will also share a blurb with Natalie for inclusion in her Message from the Mayor.

a. Green Infrastructure Workgroup email

Janice Bortner shared that Arbor Day and Earth Day used to be celebrated together. She talked about a fact sheet that the Residential Committee would like to share with Earth Day participants regarding the Green Infrastructure Workgroup. She noted that they would also like to plant a tree on Earth Day, if possible. Colleen noted that they don't want to plant a tree in the Pollinator Garden because they are concerned with the garden beds not getting enough sunlight. Colleen suggested that perhaps they can advertise the planting of a tree on Arbor Day during the Earth Day event. Pat Schuchman shared a few locations that could potentially accommodate a new tree planting in town. She also suggested that we encourage people to plant trees on their own properties as an Arbor Day activity.

5. Upcoming Events

- a. Beach Grass Planting
Fenwick Island Beach Grass Planting has been scheduled for March 16 @ 9 a.m. We are asking for volunteers to assist with planting that day. You can sign up to help [here](#). The link is also available on the Town's website. Click on the calendar for March 16 and the link is there.
 - b. Offshore Wind Community Meeting
2/29/24, 5:30 p.m., IRHS (*tentative*)
Colleen noted that we are working to confirm the February 29, 2024, meeting with IRHS and will keep everyone updated.
6. New Business
A Comprehensive Plan Update section will be added to next month's agenda.
 7. Public Participation
Pat Schuchman noted that she has a pollinator hotel at her house. Colleen asked Pat to bring it to the office and she will get it to keep at her house until they determine where it will go in the garden.
 8. Next Meeting: March 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Town Hall
 9. Adjournment
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m. on a Susan Brennan/Liz Lear motion.