



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Janice Bortner, Deborah Cowell (Zoom), Sharon Harris, Rose Mary Hoy, Cindy Kerns (Zoom), Stu Rubenstein (Zoom), Geri Verlaque

Other Participants: Virginia Davidson (Zoom), Jamie Frank (Zoom); Kathy Hessler (Zoom), Mike Hoy, Amy Kyle (Zoom), Joe Leary, Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom), Scott Mumford (Zoom), Kate Norman (Zoom); Shaughn Pierce (Zoom), Ann Riley (Zoom), Mia Rochfort (Zoom), Eric Staczek (Zoom); Megan Staczek (Zoom), George Stone (Zoom), Glen Williams, Kurt Zanelotti (Zoom), Kevin Zipay (Zoom)

Staff: Pat Schuchman, Lori Dabbondanza, Mike Locke, Chief Mike Morrissey

Flag Salute & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Discussion and Action

a. State Park Report

Janice Bortner noted that the proposed plan to expand the parking lot and bath house will cost approximately \$7.2M but has not been budgeted by the state yet. There are areas of concern that will have to be discussed in advance of any plans. Jack Pyne will keep the committee updated on any future plans.

b. Benches on Bunting

Janice Bortner discussed benches on Bunting along the beach parking ends. She noted the benches would be donated and have a plaque on the back that residents could sponsor. There was discussion about cleanliness around the benches, concern about people sleeping on them and how we can prevent that from happening. On a Janice Bortner/Sharon Harris



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motion, the committee voted to send this issue to Town Council for further discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Memorial Flags

Janice Bortner discussed memorial flags on light posts, at the cost of \$124/ea. Mike Locke noted that the quoted price does not include the cost of adding a photograph. Pat Schuchman noted that once Town Council approves the flags, we can figure out ways to advertise the availability of the memorial flags. Perhaps keep the flags generic and honor veteran's, in general. We do have the availability of 6 banners in front of Town Hall. There will be a charge from DelMarva Power to allow us to use the poles. Stu Rubenstein asked if the fee would be waived for veterans. Pat Schuchman will talk with her contact at DelMarva Power about this issue as well.

d. Green Infrastructure Working Group

Deb Cowell noted that they met on December 13, 2023. They discussed some goals for the working group. They would like to see what Town space is available to plant trees. Their focus on what is important to the Town about the trees. They are looking at what steps we can take to help maintain our green infrastructure. Perhaps having someone come to educate us and our town on our green infrastructure and what we can do about ordinances on private property. She discussed some information that Norfolk, VA has available for their community regarding green infrastructure. Discussion followed.

e. DarkSky Working Group

Rose Mary Hoy reported on behalf of 13 residents on S. Shultz. Jamie Frank reported on the light post on Shultz. Megan Staczek noted that the lights appear to be outdated and are 2 story height and shine into their living and sleeping areas. She would like to see the lights come down entirely or replaced. Rose Mary Hoy shared some guidance on dark skies and what is recommended. Specifically, lighting should be cast downward and should project a warmer glow. Janice Bortner indicated that their committee is looking into ordinances.



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Pat Schuchman noted that they addressed the complaint immediately and sent an officer down to conduct a light meter test and reported that none of the tests exceeded the maximum lumen permitted by code.

Subsequently, we contacted DelMarva Power, and they indicated that they had received a complaint from someone on Shultz and they came out to replace the bulbs. DelMarva will be ordering and installing shields for the lighting to help with the brightness.

The committee would like to request that DelMarva Power replace the bright bulb with a lower Kelvin bulb or perhaps a warmer glow LED. Discussion followed. Rose Mary Hoy thanked Pat for reaching out to DelMarva Power and was surprised by their quick reaction. Pat agreed to ask them about installing a warmer glow bulb in addition to the shields.

Janice Bortner noted that in the Comprehensive Plan, lighting is addressed. She noted that their committee will be hosting a Dark Sky forum in the Spring. She is asking for the ordinance to be enforced.

Chief Morrissey noted the importance of neighborly communication and just talking directly with any neighbor that may be projecting light into your living areas, they may simply not know about the issue.

Janice Bortner noted that perhaps sharing information in the welcome packets regarding lighting may be a good solution.

Rose Mary Hoy – encourage neighborly dialogue, contact Town Hall, if needed. She'd like to not concern the police about this issue, if avoidable.

Pat Schuchman encouraged everyone to contact Town Hall staff with any issues.

A question was raised about who set the limits of the code to allow a maximum of 5 lumens. Rose Mary Hoy noted that the ordinance is about 30 years old. They will ask Pat Schuchman to comment on this issue further.

Additionally, as part of the Dark Sky Initiative working group, Rose Mary Hoy shared a presentation on Electronic Message Centers/Digital Signs. They have shared guidance on how to use the electronic signs in



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compliance with the Dark Sky initiative. This has also been shared with the C&O committee. DarkSky does not endorse the use of EMCs at night. Permitting use of EMCs at night in Fenwick Island would not be aligned with the approved Strategic Plan. If EMCs are used at night, DarkSky guidance should be closely followed.

The C&O meeting is scheduled for this Thursday. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

f. Welcome Packets

Janice Bortner discussed the welcome packets and noted that education and involvement is key. She suggested perhaps mailing the packets out or handing them out with the parking passes. Pat Schuchman noted that that is something that would have to be budgeted and would have to be approved by Town Council. Pat Schuchman noted that all the information in the packet is available on our website. And we will also mail a packet out to new residents based on the tax report we receive from the state monthly.

2. Old Business

Marijuana ordinance was passed.

Bridge on 54 project update – results of the forum will be presented this Spring.
DOTpublic@delaware.gov.

The proposed rental ordinance has been denied by Town Council. We are still awaiting a response from the Granicus representative on a benefit analysis quote.

3. New Business

Sharon Harris discussed trash and noted that it would be nice if the company would put the lid on it and turn the trash can upside down. Town staff will reach out to Cassella to reiterate our residents desire to have their cans turned upside down and/or the lids placed on the cans after the trash is collected.

4. Public Participation

Kathy Hessler mentioned the electronic signs and how they can be deceiving and trick people into thinking a traffic light changed. Additionally, regarding trash, she noted that the wind will sometimes blow the lids off the trash cans after the



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waste collectors have come through. She praised the trash collectors for the excellent job they do.

Mia Rochfort mentioned a concern regarding flooding along S. Carolina Ave., particularly when there is a Noreaster. Their road becomes impassable during flooding events. The Infrastructure Committee will be looking into this issue and will be meeting tomorrow at 10 a.m. They have formed a working group to investigate this specific issue. DENRec controls that area, so anything would have to go through them for approval. Mike Locke added that we are looking to available grant money to see if there's something we can do to address the issue. We have installed backflow preventers at the end of each road, however, if we get a lot of rain, particularly during high tides, the backflow preventers don't work. He is also looking into placing sandbags in problem areas. Richard Benn is working with DENRec and an engineering firm, so they are involved in the process. Pat Schuchman noted that we are also looking into raising bulkheads. Our Infrastructure Committee has conducted a survey of every street in town and will continue their work on this issue. It just takes time and money. Natalie Magdeburger noted that the Infrastructure Committee has an RFP out now. Those RFPs are due by the end of today and will be shared during tomorrow's Infrastructure Committee meeting. We are fully committed to addressing these issues. There is a February 10, 2024, deadline for the grant submission. It does require a 30% match from the Town. The money will not be awarded until the Fall.

Natalie Magdeburger discussed a prior town-wide tree sale that may want to be reconsidered for our tree discussion.

She noted the impending storm and stated that we do anticipate widespread flooding throughout town along with strong gusts of wind. Everyone was reminded to secure anything that could pose a hazard to people or property.

On the windfarm issue, she noted that money has been offered to various towns to take as a community benefit package of about \$100k/town/year. Our Council rejected being part of that community benefit package and will return that money. Now is the time to let your legislators know your concerns and what this will mean for the Town of Fenwick Island. A simulation of what it will look like in the future can be found online. The Environmental Committee will be meeting later this week and will be discussing this issue. Rose Mary Hoy suggested we



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share legislative contacts with residents so they know who to contact. Concerns around what these would do to our marine life. The second issue is property value and tourism. The third issue would be around our military security. She discussed the Ceasar Roddy Institute.

5. Future Meeting:

February 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

6. Adjourn

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.