



The Town of Fenwick Island

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RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

March 4, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Town Hall

Minutes

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

Other Participants: Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom), Scott Mumford

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

Flag Salute & Call to Order

1. Approval of the January and February committee meeting minutes
There was not a quorum, no vote was taken.
2. Welcome new member, Megan Staczek
Megan Staczek was not able to attend the meeting today. She will be introduced at the next meeting.
3. Welcome to Lori Dabbondanza as new Town Manager
The committee welcomed Lori Dabbondanza as the new Town Manager. Lori will begin serving in the Town Manager capacity beginning April 8, following Pat Schuchman's retirement. Deborah Cowell wished Pat Schuchman well in her retirement and thanked her for all her support over the years.

It was also noted that Jack Pyne is taking a medical leave of absence from the committee effective immediately. Please keep him in your thoughts.

Discussion and Action

a. Benches on Bunting

Janice Bortner discussed the proposed 4ft. benches and asked Chief Morrissey and Mike Locke to share their input. Chief Morrissey noted that he would like to see the committee test a small number of benches before making a full commitment. The benches would be placed on the Bunting St. side of the beach and opposite of where vehicles park. The intended purpose of the benches is to give people a place to rest while walking along

Bunting. The cost would be covered by donors of the plaques. Geri asked if there is there any liability to the Town if someone were to hurt themselves. Rose Mary Hoy and Geri Verlaque volunteered their husbands to assist with putting the benches together, if needed. Due to the lack of a quorum, no vote was taken to advance the issue forward for Town Council consideration.

b. Dark Skies Working Group

Rose Mary Hoy provided the committee with an update on the Dark Skies Working Group. She noted that they are working to educate other surrounding towns on the Dark Skies Initiative. The working group has offered to share a presentation with Sussex County Council about Dark Skies. She noted that the working group was not able to meet in March. Communication of their initiative will be critical going forward. They are consulting the Comprehensive Plan as they move forward. Mayor Magdeburger shared that she is supportive of them moving forward with an education forum. Rose Mary Hoy noted that the developer across the bay is beginning their work. The working group is prioritizing their discussions with them and are looking into how open they would be to hearing about the Dark Skies initiative and incorporating the principles into their building process. She mentioned that part of the Comprehensive Plan deals with updating the lighting ordinance but the working group plans to do their homework before proposing any changes. They will also be looking at any available grants that may be available.

c. Lights on S. Schulz

Pat Schuchman noted that Jim Smith at Delmarva Power met with his team, and they are recommending the Traditionaire lighting option for S. Schulz. Pat indicated this light will reflect the following specifications: 10' high pole; 3000 Kelvin bulb; 70-watt bulb; shielding on 'house side' of fixture (to focus light onto the road and not onto lawns/homes). Janice asked if we could have an agreement with Delmarva Power before the lighting is installed. Rose Mary Hoy thanked everyone for their work on this issue and noted that they are pleased and supportive of the new commitment from Delmarva Power. Rose Mary Hoy did ask that the town request a 2700 Kelvin rating bulb (or the lowest Kelvin bulb available), if possible, to provide a warmer color that is more friendly to the environment and creates less glare. Chief Morrissey shared that he believes this light is what is installed in his neighborhood, and it is not overpowering.

d. Green Infrastructure Working Group

i. Earth Day information, Green Infrastructure fact sheet

Janice Bortner noted that the Green Infrastructure Working Group will be distributing an information fact sheet during the Earth Day event on April 20. Deborah Cowell noted that she will be working on reformatting the document in advance of distribution. She added that green infrastructure overlaps several committees, and they are working to educate people on what green infrastructure is. Their group did not meet in February but will be regrouping later this month. Deborah Cowell will also be sharing other handouts on DE native trees for planting

as well.

ii. Arbor Day tree planting

e. Welcome Packets

Janice Bortner noted that Cindy Kerns and Shaunessy Pierce have agreed to work on information and distribution of welcome packets. Any other volunteers were encouraged to contact Janice. Pat Schuchman noted that volunteers will need to coordinate around staff availability. Pat indicated that the way the packets are distributed now is the most economical way to proceed. Janice would like to begin tracking who the packets are given out to.

f. Commemorative Flags for Fallen Heroes

Janice noted that this initiative will be communicated to the residents and businesses on Facebook and website. The mayor will communicate it in her Message from the Mayor. FISH will also be asked to share information as well.

4. Old Business

Janice discussed the James St. dune crossing being high and asked if DNREC has addressed the issue. Pat Schuchman will follow up with Mike Locke on the status.

Janice asked if the ADA ramp on Bayard Street had been repaired. Pat indicated that she will check with Mike Locke on the status and report back to the committee.

The little library located outside of Town Hall needs more children's books. Donations were requested.

5. New Business

Deborah Cowell thanked Chief Morrissey for his help with the parking issue on Atlantic.

Pat Schuchman noted that we will be restriping the streets in early May. Deborah Cowell noted that the contractors should be made aware of the existing lines and pay attention to existing yellow and white areas.

Janice promoted FISH and encouraged everyone to join if they have not already. They organize a candidate forum in advance of each election. The cost to join is \$20.

Janice also discussed a draft form that was created by Rose Mary Hoy for residents to share their concerns. Geri asked how we can control and monitor the issues that are submitted. It was determined that completed forms should be submitted to the chair of the committee to address and/or share during a Residential Concerns Committee meeting. Pat indicated that the upcoming Message from the Mayor will address some recent ongoing issues and work that is being done to resolve those issues. It was also suggested that we involve the Information Technology Committee

for their input.

With there being no quorum, there were no motions made.

6. Public Participation

None

7. Future Meeting April 8, 2024, at 10 a.m.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.