



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Richard Benn (Zoom), Jack Armstrong (Zoom), Tim Bergin (Zoom), Ed Bishop (Zoom), Larry Bortner (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom), Tim Leahy (Zoom), Jon Miller (Zoom), George Murphy (Zoom), Jay Ryan (Zoom), Nuvan Seneviratne (Zoom), Geri Verlaque (Zoom)

Others Present: Lori Dabbondanza, Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom), Pat Schuchman

Flag salute and call to order.

I. Approval of prior minutes

The minutes from the February 13, 2024 meeting were approved as submitted on a Larry Bortner/Ed Bishop motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

II. Discussion on progress of working group

Ed Bishop shared that everything for the grant has been submitted. We will know in June whether the town will move forward with the next step of the grant award process. The state has indicated that everything we have submitted looks good. Richard Benn thanked the working group and staff for their work. He added that we are not permitted to spend any money in anticipation of being awarded the grant. Ed Bishop noted that the working group is in the process of determining some helpful steps we can take in advance of being awarded the money. The working group believes that our money would be best spent working with an engineering firm on the town's stormwater infrastructure system, including GIS. The working group has been working on putting together a Statement of Work and thinks a study could cost between \$20-\$25K. We could then provide that information to the engineering firms, and it would be a useful first step in their process. Even if we don't get the BRIC grant, we still need to have this information to begin addressing issues. Ed will share the draft Statement of Work that the working group has put together with the full committee for review and input. Richard Benn agreed that that is a great idea.

Discussion followed. The ultimate goal of this process is to produce an existing conditions report for the town. Ed Bishop volunteered to meet with Mike Locke on compiling the data he has and combining that with an infrastructure asset document. It was suggested that Public Works have a specific budget line item to purchase Back Flow Preventers (BFPs) and other maintenance items for infrastructure so they have the freedom to purchase what they need, as they need it. Mike noted that their supply of BFP's is getting low. Richard suggested that, in the meantime, Mike fill out an action form to refill his current inventory. Tim Leahy noted that he does not believe this type of research would be included in the grant.

Tim Leahy stated that he would like to keep the town involved and host a minimum of two workshops about the project.

Jay Ryan stated that we need to touch base and make sure we don't get a surprise bill at the end of the study and have the price double.

Richard Benn would like to discuss further and decide whether or not to ask for money from Council.

III. Stormwater improvement efforts by Public Works

Mike Locke explained that because of the warmer weather and very low tides, the guys have started the spring maintenance of all Discharge pipes and Back Flow Preventers. As of March 1, every BFP and Discharge pipe from James St. to Oyster Bay has been checked and documented.

He reviewed the work that has been done to date by Public Works, including:

- Patched a hole in an Essex St. Discharge pipe that was allowing water to come in.
- Built a new deeper and enclosed basin at the end of W. James St. to keep the sand from getting in and clogging the pipe.
- BFP on Windward Way was loose. PW re-tightened it.
- A second Discharge pipe at the end of Ebb Tide was found well below the top of the bulkhead. A 6in. BFP was installed and added to our inventory.
- 2 BFP's on Bora Bora that were installed years ago and were in bad shape. They were replaced with new Proco BFP's.
- A discharge pipe at the end of Georgetown was full of mud and reed grass. PW dug it out and it is now flowing.
- An old Tideflex was replaced with a Proco at Dagsboro.

He noted that their plan is to continue the maintenance until complete and repair/replace as needed. Miss Utility finished their utility inspection yesterday in front of Nuvan's house. PW has started some test holes/trenches in front of the home to figure out where the water is coming from.

Mike will be submitting an action form for some additional BFP's.

IV. Discussion on N. Schultz Street issue

Richard Benn discussed the issue on N. Schultz Street with the drainage. Nuvan shared a time lapse video of the flooding on N. Schultz St. Richard noted that the bulkhead in that location is older and may be failing. Mike Locke noted that the condition of the bulkhead is poor. Jay Ryan suggested grading around that area. Tim Bergin asked if the owner of the property has been notified that the bulkhead needs to be replaced. Pat Schuchman noted that this may not meet the criteria of the code. Pat Schuchman suggested that we reach out to the property owner and ask them to address the issue, whether it be planting grass or replacing the bulkhead. The town will send a letter requesting that they plant grass in an effort to alleviate the issue.

George Murphy asked what if the landowner replaced their bulkhead with riprap. DNREC would not permit them to replace a bulkhead with riprap.

Geri Verlaque suggested that before we go to the homeowner, we should look into what the height limit should be to prevent this from happening in the future.

Richard Benn noted that town staff will continue to work on the issue.

Janice Bortner recommended installing cameras around the problem areas to help track the issue. Perhaps Nuvan can assist with the cameras. The simplest approach is to reach out to homeowners and ask if they're willing to share camera data with the town.

George Murphy urged looking at the root cause of the issue before making recommendations for solutions.

V. Public Participation

VI. New Business

VII. Old Business

VIII. Adjournment

Bishop/Bortner, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Next meeting, April 9 @ 10 a.m.