



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

April 15, 2024, at 2 p.m.

Town Hall

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Janice Bortner (Zoom), Deborah Cowell, Sharon Harris (Zoom), Rose Mary Hoy (Zoom), Cindy Kerns (Zoom), Shaunessy Pierce (Zoom), Ann Riley (Zoom), Megan Staczek (Zoom), Geri Verlaque (Zoom)

**Other Participants:** Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom), Scott Mumford (Zoom)

**Staff:** Lori Dabbondanza, Mike Locke

Flag Salute & Call to Order

1. Approval of the March 4 and March 12 committee meeting minutes  
The minutes of the March 4 meeting were approved on a Rose Mary Hoy/Megan Staczek motion. Motion carried.

The minutes from the March 12 committee meeting were approved on a Megan Staczek/Rose Mary Hoy motion. Motion carried.

Janice Bortner gave a brief introduction to new member, Megan Staczek. Megan shared her background with the committee.

2. Discussion and Action
  - a. RCC Educational Forum in June  
Janice discussed a proposed educational forum that would provide information on many issues that the committee is currently engaged in. Citizens would be encouraged to attend to learn about ways they can get involved with the various initiatives throughout the town, such as Dark Skies, Green Infrastructure, and Pedestrian Safety. She noted that Rose Mary Hoy has agreed to work on putting together the forum. Deb Cowell suggested that other committees and working groups do something similar as well and plan to participate in the educational forum. It was recommended that each committee set up a table and have a member available to answer questions during the forum. Janice noted that she will share the idea at the next Council meeting for discussion.

b. Dark Sky Working Group

Rose Mary Hoy thanked Natalie and staff for the work they have done about the lighting on S. Schulz. Megan Staczek noted that the new pole is there, and the lights are very intrusive into living spaces. Specifically, the height and brightness need to be addressed. She is hopeful that Delmarva Power can accommodate the 10' poles. Rose Mary Hoy echoed Megan's comments. Natalie noted that we are continuing to advocate on behalf of the residents and are pushing for a reasonable solution to the issue. We will continue to push for what was promised to us – 10' pole, lower Kelvin, shielding.

Rose Mary Hoy noted that Earth Day is scheduled at Town Hall on Saturday, April 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m. She provided a handout for the Dark Sky initiative that will be shared with participants that day. She noted that Fenwick Island is already a step ahead in the Dark Sky plan by including Dark Skies in the Comprehensive Plan.

Additionally, they are working on establishing a working group meeting later in April to focus on education initiatives.

Deb Cowell discussed a new tower that is located out Lighthouse Road that has a large, flashing red light. Rose Mary Hoy noted that she has checked it out and will be looking into who owns the tower and reaching out to them to address lighting concerns with them.

c. Green Infrastructure Working Group

Deb Cowell shared a PowerPoint update on green infrastructure with the committee. She noted that they met on March 27 and discussed the Green Infrastructure Fact Sheet that will be shared with participants of the Earth Day event. Additionally, they are looking for a volunteer to assist with conducting a tree inventory in Fenwick. She will get the Tree City USA information from Lori for reference. Their working group also discussed logistics for Earth Day as well as preparing the 6-month update on the Implementation Plan. Their next meeting will be held at the end of April.

d. Welcome Packets Working Group (Cindy Kerns)

As noted previously, Cindy Kerns and Shaunessy Pierce have agreed to work with Town staff to coordinate information and distribution of welcome packets to new residents. Shaunessy noted that they are beginning to discuss community outreach. Lori shared some information on a welcome packet option from a company called [Hometown Press](#) that would require little to no cost from the Town and staff and would be paid for by partnering with our business community for advertising. Lori will share more information with Janice for consideration.

e. Commemorative Flags for Fallen Heroes

Janice noted that Stu Rubenstein has been working on a way to effectively communicate the availability of this initiative with the community.

- f. Jack Pyne's discussion about hanging wiring from Delmarva Power and light poles  
Janice explained that many utility poles throughout town seem to have a lot of wiring hanging from them that is unsightly. She asked if there is a way to ask the power company to hide the wiring in some sort of sleeve. Mike Locke noted that he has reached out to the various companies about the wiring. There are a lot of utility companies that utilize the poles, and he believes getting them all coordinated may be an issue. He will reach out to them again to see if they have a solution. It was recommended that perhaps Delmarva Power may have to get involved since they own the poles.
- g. Fenwick Island Residential Concerns Committee Request for Consideration Forms  
Rose Mary Hoy shared that she has made changes to the Residential Concerns Request for Consideration form based on feedback. She added that they would like to make the form available electronically. Lori noted that there is a Contact Us form available on the website that serves a similar purpose. Janice would like to explore ways to advertise the availability of the form.

### 3. Old Business

Janice noted that Town Council did not approve the installation of benches along Bunting due to some safety concerns. Deb Cowell recalled that the first recommendation to Town Council was not approved due to 1) the size of benches as well as 2) concerns about the number of benches (potentially one at every street). This recent recommendation addressed both issues, reducing bench size and limiting the number to 4 (street locations chosen after site visits by Mike Locke, Chief Morrissey and RCC member Stu Rubenstein). It is unclear why this second recommendation was not approved after requested changes were made. Rose Mary Hoy noted that the full Council was not in attendance at the last meeting and asked if having the full Council present might have changed the outcome. Janice noted that she would be happy to revisit it with the Council and how we can address the safety concerns that were raised.

Committee members discussed the ADA ramp on Bayard and noted that Natalie and Mike Locke will be meeting with DNREC later today to discuss the issue further.

Janice noted that the dune on James Street is very high and asked if there is a way to lower it some for easier access. Lori will follow up with Mike Locke to see if there is anything that can be done.

Janice discussed Fenwick's bike patrol this summer and proposed enforcement during peak hours in peak season.

### 4. New Business

Janice reviewed the Residential Concerns Committee update report for the Implementation Plan. Rose Mary Hoy noted that we hope to have more to add in September.

There was an issue expressed regarding sand fences on Cannon St.

Deb Cowell shared her frustration with the no U-turn sign at Rt. 1 and Bayard St.

Janice brought the [homeless bill of rights](#) to the attention of the committee. She noted that it is important for Fenwick Island to review our ordinances and is hopeful that the C&O committee will take up the issue with their members. Deb Cowell suggested working with the church on housing options.

Deb Cowell noted that Dewey Beach has just increased the fee for tree removal from \$500 to \$1000. She indicated that she would like to have this issue brought to the attention of Council for further discussion.

Janice encouraged everyone to participate in the FISH residential group.

5. Public Participation  
None

6. Future Meeting May 6, 2024, at 9 a.m.

7. Adjourn

On a Rose Mary Hoy/Deb Cowell motion, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. Motion carried.