



The Town of Fenwick Island

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 10, 2024, 9 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Colleen Wilson, Susan Brennan (Zoom), Vicki Carmean, Liz Lear (Zoom)

Staff Participants: Lori Dabbondanza

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2024

The March 13, 2024 minutes were approved as submitted on a Liz Lear/Vicki Carmean motion.

2. Offshore Wind Update

Colleen Wilson noted that she attended a meeting at WorWic Community College regarding offshore wind. She noted that on that day, they submitted a new plan to extend the pier in West Ocean City. Most attendees were not in favor of wind turbines. The location of the meeting was also concerning. It was a formal administrative hearing, and a ruling will be issued in the near future. Vicki shared that it seems that the offshore wind people have a lot of tricks up their sleeve to try and win the public over. She stressed that we need to keep our beaches pristine, and most people she discusses the issue with agree that wind turbines would be devastating. It is disturbing that they are forging ahead. Colleen discussed a video that she shared entitled shifting winds and encouraged everyone to watch it. We have heard no more information regarding a meeting with Senator Hocker and Representative Gray.

3. Pollinator Garden Update

Susan Brennan noted that there have been a lot of changes to the Pollinator Garden in the last week. All the raised beds have been constructed, completed, installed and filled. The plant selection list has been completed. There is a total of 7 4x8 raised beds. The majority of the plant selection are native, and the remaining plants are pollinator plants. She and Colleen were at Inland Bays Nursery on Saturday. She is hopeful the garden will look good all year long, especially with the addition of the Red Twig Dogwood trees.

Susan shared the list of plants and where they will be planted in the garden. Bed #4 will be dedicated to former Town Manager, Pat Schuchman in recognition of her contribution to the garden. A 275-gallon cistern will be installed for a water source. Vicki asked who was covering the cost of the plants. Susan noted that they will be asking for donations. She also noted that there is a special account under the Parks and Recreation budget line item specifically for the Pollinator Garden. Susan discussed what she will talk about during her presentation on Saturday at the Barefoot Gardeners Club. If people want to donate plants, they will be asked to donate something on the list that Susan shared. They will also offer the opportunity to adopt a bed. Liz noted that she has a grower for parsley, and it was noted that the state butterfly, the Tiger Monarch, loves parsley.

4. Earth Day Planning/Assignments

Town Hall will be set up for the event on Saturday, April 20 beginning at 8 a.m. Everyone will be assigned a task for the event. Set up will be done on the afternoon of Friday, April 19 at Town Hall.

5. Comprehensive Plan Update

Susan Brennan noted that the plan is on the Governor's desk for approval.

She also noted that the Center for Inland Bays is looking to put together a group for gardeners. There may be some sort of funding available as well. She noted to them that the Pollinator Garden was part of our Comprehensive Plan.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

None

8. Public Participation

None

9. Next Meeting: May 8, 2024, 9 a.m., Town Hall

10. Adjournment

On a Vicki Carmean/Liz Lear motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.