



The Town of Fenwick Island

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RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Other Participants: Kurt Zanelotti (Zoom), Matt Pencek (Zoom)

Staff: Lori Dabbondanza, Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order

1. Approval of the April 15, 2024 committee meeting minutes with amendment. The minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting with amendment were approved on a Deborah Cowell/Sharon Harris motion. Motion carried.
2. Discussion and Action
 - a. RCC Educational Forum in June
Janice Bortner shared a draft proposal for the Fenwick Island Community Appreciation Day (referred to as the RCC Education Forum). Janice Bortner would like to expand it to include all other initiatives. Stu Rubenstein suggests holding something around the July 4 Bonfire. Janice Bortner has some concerns about the weather but thought a table with information would be a good idea. Deborah Cowell added that if the committee hosted it on their own, they could provide speakers for Green Infrastructure and Dark Sky. There will be more involvement in an event than using the website. Janice Bortner would like the committee to provide a list of dates and times to host. Rose Mary Hoy likes Stu Rubenstein's idea and recommends going to individual committees encouraging them to join in the appreciation day. Sharon Harris advises that we need to consider the audience when making decisions, need to consider the audience we want to present to and to build the event around that.
 - b. Dark Sky Working Group
Janice Bortner noted that Chief Morrissey has agreed that the ambient light from across the Bay is sufficient and that Delmarva Power and S. Schultz will remove the light posts. The completion of this project is unknown. Rose Mary Hoy thanked Janice Bortner for her work.

- c. Green Infrastructure Working Group
Janice Bortner thanked Deborah Cowell for her work. She noted that any grants we receive would have to be for public spaces. Deborah Cowell noted that according to DE Tree Service, we would have to move forward with the project and may be reimbursed up to \$4k. She also noted that she is looking at Tree City USA. She shared that the designation has certain requirements, including ordinances as well as a Tree Committee, Tree Board, and a Tree Manager. Arbor Day Proclamation. \$2 expenditure per capita. A tree study was done in 2010 with the help of a forestry person. Tree Triage event in 2009...there are a lot more questions than answers. Deborah Cowell would be interested in hearing why live trees were pulled out during the median project. Janice Bortner said we should probably start from scratch. Janice Bortner noted that she would like to continue to educate homeowners about the value of trees.

- d. Welcome Packets Working Group
Janice Bortner would like the Town Hall to keep track of who has received a welcome packet. Lori Dabbondanza indicated that we have been keeping track of those that have stopped in and have given a packet to. Janice Bortner would like to investigate Lori Dabbondanza's suggestion of the Hometown Press option with the Business Committee. Stu Rubenstein suggested that the packets be handed out with the parking passes. Rose Mary Hoy noted that there are currently combining the parking passes with updating emergency contact and business declaration page.

- e. Stu Rubenstein – Communication to the community - Commemorative Flags initiative for Fallen Heroes
Janice Bortner indicated that a letter about the initiative should go out to the website and Facebook inviting any community members who would like to participate in honoring a fallen soldier. She feels that communication to the community needs work and technology seems to be the way to go.

- f. Benches on Bunting – Chief safety concerns
Janice Bortner noted that she has been approached by many residents that are disappointed that the Council did not approve the benches on Bunting. She indicated that she would want to revisit the issue but would need to have a Council member that voted against the measure agree to have it placed back on the agenda for reconsideration. There are also some residents who have suggested starting a petition. Perhaps put pillars around the benches to protect the people using them. Discussion. Stu Rubenstein discussed the concern about whether there was enough space for people backing up to properly protect the benches. There appeared to be enough space. A question was raised on who voted against the benches. Janice Bortner noted that she would need to get approval from one of them to have the issue placed back on the Council agenda. Discussion followed. Geri Verlaque raised the issue of the placement of the handicapped trash cans. Stu Rubenstein noted that the residents are the ones cleaning up trash left behind, not the town. The town is not left in pristine condition.

g. Town New Website

Janice Bortner asked if there are some volunteers to work with the IT Committee on ways to communicate our committee's initiatives more effectively. Lori Dabbondanza advised that we are in the final stages of the new website. Stu Rubenstein asked if the Town Office is using other sites to advertise besides their Facebook page and website, Lori Dabbondanza stated no, but the posts can be shared to other Facebook sites as well.

h. RCC Committee posting monthly updates - None

3. Old Business

Lights on the new tower on 54, the lights are no longer white but red and seems to not be as intrusive. Janice Bortner is keeping apprised of the issue.

Residential Concerns Request for Consideration Forms- Janice Bortner explained the purpose of the form and noted that she felt it was an effective way for residents to share concerns. The form was presented to Council. It was noted that she cannot use her personal email. Lori shared that she would prefer to have one form available on the website, directed to staff. Rose Mary Hoy shared that she is inclined to come full circle and would like to revisit the current Contact Us form and tweaking that, she would be inclined to change to the direction of Lori's suggestion. Perhaps make a hard copy of the Contact Us form available in Town Hall.

Fences on the dunes – Mike Locke and DENRC are currently addressing.

Beach access on James Street – This needs to be managed and addressed by DNREC, perhaps Mike Locke can follow up with them on the concerns

There are some wires on Delmarva poles that are exposed Janice Bortner notes that we would like to see sleeves to hide the wires. She feels they need to be more consistent on how they are addressed. Asking Mike Locke to discuss options with Delmarva.

Electronic Bikes on Bunting. The state does not appear to have standards on this. Chief Morrisey has indicated that he would keep an eye on the issue. We need to see how other towns are managing this issue. Deborah Cowell notes that bikes are required to follow the same laws as auto mobiles.

4. New Business

Janice Bortner noted that the process of how the committee manages concerns was brought up at the last Council meeting. She shared the committee's current mission statement. This is a new committee that started 3 years ago. She asked if there was any input on how the committee can improve or update our mission statement. Please email suggestions to Janice Bortner. Deborah Cowell offered to look at our mission statement and split it up into a mission statement and a vision statement.

5. Public Participation -None

Janice Bortner mentioned that there is a need for books, especially children's books for the lending library. She is encouraging everyone to join FISH. Lastly Janice Bortner would like to share her condolences with Mayor Magdeburger and her family on the loss of her father, Dr. Carmean.

6. Future Meeting – June 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ***First Monday of every month at 10:00 am unless it falls on a holiday and then it will be the following Monday.
7. Adjourn
On a Geri Verlaque /Sharon Harris motion, motion carried.