



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

May 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Richard Benn (Zoom), Jay Ryan (Zoom), Larry Bortner (Zoom), Nuvan Seneviratne (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom), George Murphy (Zoom), Tim Bergin (Zoom), Andy Emerson (Zoom), Tim Leahy (Zoom), Jon Miller (Zoom)

Others Present: Lori Dabbondanza, Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom), Mike Locke, Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order.

I. Approval of prior minutes

The minutes from the March 12, 2024 meeting were approved as submitted on a Jon Miller/Tim Leahy motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Works Update

Mike Locke reported that the paving on Dagsboro and S. Shultz is complete. The patch work on Farmington and Surf is complete. Crack sealing should be complete in the next week or so. In March, Public Works performed the yearly check of vents and drainage pipes. They replaced 4 BFPs. The [2024 Discharge Replacement Plan](#) and [2024 Yearly Drainage Maintenance](#) reports are available on the website. Discussion on budgeting for more BFPs is needed. Richard Benn advised Mike Locke to bring the request to Council for approval, the committee agrees to support the purchase and upkeep of the BFPs. The road striping throughout town is on schedule and should be completed prior to Memorial Day.

III. Discussion on progress of the resiliency working group

Tim Leahy discussed the progress of the resilience working group, indicating they submitted the application to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). He shared that we expect notice of approval for the larger grant around October. The award announcement will occur sometime in early 2025. The group feels that they should keep the momentum going and would like to update documentation on town-owned stormwater, etc. The group has scoped it back to a simple SOW to begin discussing with engineering firms for cost and timeframe. Tim Leahy shared a draft of the SOW with the full committee. The SOW includes a review of current

town data (defining the data gaps), inspection of the current conditions and update documentation (fill data gaps), and facilitation of community engagement. Ed Bishop and Mike Locke worked together on section 1.2 of the SOW. Tim Leahy briefly discussed the tasks and feels they should be discussed with one of the firms as it is somewhat of an urgent matter. George Murphy feels it is extremely urgent. Jon Miller asked if cost is a concern and if there is there any consideration to put out a proposal to multiple firms. Tim Leahy advised that we could send it to multiple firms. Tim Leahy indicated it is the committee's choice, we are not locked in. Susan Brennan asked about the period of the project and how long the working group thinks it will take. Tim Leahy responded that this should be done as soon as possible and noted that he was unsure how long it will take until further discussion with the firms. Susan Brennan feels that this is a great idea, it is comprehensive and essential, and she appreciates the efforts.

On an Andy Emerson/Tim Bergin motion the committee voted to get a preliminary cost estimate from several engineering firms for the items in the SOW and then present the SOW to Council for input and approval. George Murphy disagreed. He believes the working group should request a firm price from an engineering firm. Natalie wants the committee to present more information to the public about what we are doing. Motion carried.

Motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that a discussion item will need to be added to the May 24 Town Council Agenda regarding the discussion of the Infrastructure Committee Statement of Work.

Richard Benn would like to publish the SOW on the town's website. Natalie Magdeburger asked that someone write a summary or introduction to non-engineers explaining why this effort is important.

IV. Discussion of progress of C&O working group.

Jon Miller discussed the group's progress, noting that they met several times to frame the issue and identify options. Specifically, they have discussed building height clause 160-4 (freeboard) and whether it should be mandatory or voluntary. If it is made mandatory, he noted that we would have to wait for the resiliency study to be completed. He questioned if adding an incentive would make the voluntary program more potent. The second area they were asked to review was the applicability of the requirement (who this applies to). It could be defined in two ways, geographically (i.e., bay side), related to base flood elevation or through NAVD88. The third consideration is whether this applies to new construction or major renovations. The last area of consideration is the height increase and whether there should be a lot elevation increase. The members also discussed bulkhead height requirements, retaining walls, added soil, and other considerations. There was discussion on potential incentives to be considered for the future. Natalie noted we need 100 percent public buy-in from homeowners for the plan to work. Tim Bergin and Jay Ryan shared and discussed with the committee a graph depicting

average tides over the last few decades. Natalie suggested planning another symposium on this topic noting that public education is imperative to get public buy-in.

V. Public Participation
NONE

VI. New Business
NONE

VII. Old Business
NONE

VIII. Adjournment

Tim Bergin/Nuvan Seneviratne motion to adjourn at 2:11 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting