



The Town of Fenwick Island

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

May 8, 2024, 9 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Colleen Wilson, Susan Brennan (Zoom), Liz Lear (Zoom), Janice Bortner (Zoom), Vicki Carmean, Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

Staff Participants: Kathy Grab

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

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

1. Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2024
The April 10, 2024 minutes were approved as submitted on a Susan Brennan/Liz Lear motion.
2. Offshore Wind Update
Colleen Wilson stated she attended the meeting at Indian River High School last week regarding Offshore Wind. There were many in attendance of which she was able to hear both sides of the issue explained. The governor's office spoke first explaining the benefits Offshore Wind has for Delaware and what changes will be made in legislature in the next several months and years. Mike Dunmyer from US Wind spoke, also talking of the benefits of Offshore Wind. Jeff Pohanka and David Stevenson both spoke negatively about the Offshore Wind effects on Delaware. Colleen Wilson indicated about 90% of the attendees at the meeting were against the Offshore Wind. People are urged to contact their legislators and stay vigilant about the issue. Susan Brennan was able to listen to the meeting online and felt it was well done and the most appealing speaker was Rick Meehan from Ocean City. A letter was written by the Eastern Shore Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly asking to stop the Offshore Wind movement, no word of a response to that letter yet. Vicki Carmean commented that she is concerned as she looked at the list that the Delaware legislature has set up for an OSW committee and there is no representation from Sussex County which will be affected the most. Vicki Carmean stated this is not about green energy but about money changing hands.

Colleen Wilson spoke briefly about the whale that beached up at the inlet, it was heartbreaking. She received an email earlier in the morning regarding another one in New Jersey.

3. 2024 Earth Day Follow-up

Colleen Wilson thanked everyone for their help in the Earth Day setup. She then spoke of the successful event, about sixty volunteers were there. All assignments were taken, except for one. Comcast volunteered as one of their Community Activity Days and were a significant help. They gave out a lot of plants during the event. The giveaways were successful, the weather was great, and there was a lot of trash that was picked up. Colleen Wilson hopes that we can continue to do this event every year.

4. Pollinator Garden Update

Colleen Wilson stated the garden is looking great and it is thriving! Susan Brennan stated that a cistern system was installed and Public Works has agreed to fill it for us. It is set up so that it is gravity fed. She has found a sign up put on it to indicate Non-Potable Water and that will need to be set up. The garden is about 95% planted, just waiting for some plants such as the Hot Lips which are not in, the Butterfly Weed, and still looking for Little Joe Pye. Safe to say that 90% or more are native plants and everything in the garden has a purpose. The next steps are to finish the planting and it is about time to implement Weed and Water Wednesday. Scott Mumford's daughter has an interest in doing some of her service hours in the garden and we can accommodate her and teach her how to garden along the way. The other piece is signage. Susan Brennan has gathered information on signage. She questions whether to have one sign with a list of all plants or individual signs. Discussion regarding the signs ensued, consensus is each plant have their own sign. Susan Brennan will investigate those signs. She would like to know how they would like to do the signage for the garden bed that we are honoring Patricia Schuchman with. Discussion ensued and decided that we do not want to go overboard with big signs, something nice that can go in the corner. Also, a welcoming sign would be nice explaining the garden and its importance. Colleen Wilson indicated we do not want a big sign with rules but something to the effect of welcome to your garden, enjoy it, the importance of the garden and how to help the pollinators. Signs can be discussed further. Colleen Wilson found an article in the OC Today – Dispatch from April 26, 2024 she thought would be of interest: "Pollinator garden tour. The Lower Shore Last Trust is hosting a pollinator garden tour in June. The event, set Jun 21 and 22, is a fundraiser for the trust and highlights seven private gardens in a particular county - this year in Somerset – each year. Attendees buy tickets, which provide them a map to visit various private gardens, talk with owners, share tips and get inspired. A plein air artist at each location sets up a canvas and creates artwork unique

to each host's garden environment, and some locations host workshops or speakers. Tickets are available now." [OC Today - Dispatch](#). This might be something we would be interested in doing. Susan Brennan would like to see a way for them to take pictures of the garden and upload them to the website so people can have access to see what is happening in the garden. Also being able to engage in citizen science where citizens can learn about the garden and its purpose. There is a big future in the garden. Colleen Wilson feels that weeding and transplanting is what needs to be next. Janice Bortner really likes how everything has come together, hoping that IT can help with ideas on how to encourage citizen help.

5. Old Business - None
6. New Business – Janice Bortner shared with Lori at Town Office regarding recycling in Delaware, and willing to share it with the committee. Colleen Wilson has received an email from a resident thanking the Environmental Committee for everything we are doing but she is suggesting residents are recycling incorrectly and feels they need education. Colleen Wilson felt it was a good idea to have it on the Town website and asked if Welcoming Packets are still being done and if the recycling information is in them. Janice Bortner indicated yes, but they are a work in progress. The new website is in the works, and citizens can certainly look on the website as well. Janice Bortner will contact the company for more information. Vicki Carmean indicated the decision about recycling has already been made and this is not an area the committee should be dealing with, certainly can pass the information on but not get too involved.

Susan Brennan wanted to mention that they asked the town office to add to the website that Delawareans can buy discounted compost bins online through the State-initiated Program.

Barefoot Gardener plant sale is this weekend.

7. Date of the next meeting is June 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
8. Public Participation - None
9. Adjournment
On a Vicki Carmean/Susan Brennan motion, the meeting was adjourned.