



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**June 12, 2024, 9 a.m.**

**Town Hall**

### MINUTES

**Present:** Colleen Wilson; Vicki Carmean; Liz Lear (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom); Deborah Cowell; Janice Bortner (Zoom)

**Staff Participants:** Kathy Grab; Lori Dabbondanza.

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2024
  - The May 8, 2024 minutes were approved as submitted on Vicki Carmean/Liz Lear motion.

***Motion Carried***

2. Offshore Wind Update
  - A meeting last week by DNREC where both sides of the Offshore Wind Farm were represented. The majority of the attendees were against Offshore Wind, however there were some supporters gathered outside.
  - On June 13 at the Ocean City Convention Center, the MD Dept of Air Quality will hold a session for air quality permits needed to permit Offshore Wind off the coast of Ocean City beaches. A poster session will be held at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Q&A session from 7 - 8 p.m.
  - Liz Lear asked if the permit is approved, is there an opportunity to object? Colleen Wilson believes that the permitting process gives US Wind the go ahead. Discussion ensued.
3. Pollinator Park Update
  - a. Plan for grand opening
    - Susan Brennan stated that there needs to be an official park opening.
    - There are caterpillars and some of the bird boxes have nests.

- Collen Wilson stated that a watering schedule is needed when there is not rain for a few days. Susan Brennan added that weeding should be scheduled as well. There was discussion about doing a Sign-Up Genius and sharing it to the town's website or Facebook page. Colleen Wilson would rather solicit volunteers through the website or Facebook page rather than Sign-Up Genius. Lori Dabbondanza suggested that a Facebook post would likely get more reaction than our website.
- Susan Brennan would also like to make a Facebook page for the garden, showing updates.
- Tom Brennan will raise the cistern with cement blocks to get the water flowing more easily.
- Janice Bortner suggested asking high school students who are in town and have some available community service hours may want to help with watering and weeding.
- Janice Bortner suggested adding bat boxes to the garden to help with mosquitoes. She will look further into this and get back to the committee. Susan Brennan will contact Pam Pridgeon to see if she has information to share on bats.
- Deborah Cowell asked about what to do with the weeds when in the garden and was advised they have been bringing them home and placing it with their yard waste.
- Susan Brennan shared that the last piece needed is the signage. She shared ideas she found for Pat's garden box and other plant markers. The consensus was that the common names and the botanical names should to be on them, if possible. Susan Brennan will get the signs ordered.
- Discussion on the best time for the grand opening celebration. Later in the summer, when the garden will be lush seems to be right. Committee members settled on August 31, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Discussion of what is needed for drinks or food and advertising? Liz Lear will plan the opening calling it the Pollinator Park Dedication. Susan Brennan talked about making seed balls from the flowers in the park as giveaways.
- Next meeting will discuss plans more in-depth as well as budget. Lori Dabbondanza indicated that an Action Form will need to be submitted for council consideration and approval. Liz Lear indicated \$200 should be sufficient.

#### 4. Old Business

##### a. Response to recyclables concerns

- Janice Bortner contacted DE Solid Waste Authority regarding residents needing information on recycling and they sent us a box of "How to Recycle" booklets to be included in the welcome packets and available at town hall.

## 5. New Business

- Susan Brennan spoke on the Comprehensive Plan that has been approved and implementation has been executed. Board Chairs have the questionnaire:
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:02bf6485-0a7e-49d0-b3c6-d0c3b5fb3ccd>
- Susan Brennan then read the proposed Environmental Committee's Mission Statement.
- Deborah Cowell gave an update from the Residential Concerns Committee that they are planning an educational forum on July 25 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Experts will be in attendance to discuss Dark Skies, and green infrastructure. Mosquito issues and bats were brought up in the meeting and Natalie Magdeburger indicated that it would be nice to have a list of plants that are natural mosquito repellent available at the event. Deborah Cowell researched the issue and came up with a list of twelve plants that she will share.
- Colleen Wilson will be attending the Living Shoreline seminar tomorrow and will get information for the committee.
- Lori Dabbondanza shared information about the Delaware 2024 Compost Bin and Rain Barrel sale. She will post the information to the website.

## 6. Date of the next meeting:

- July 10, 2024 at 9 a.m.

## 7. Public Participation

- None

## 8. Adjournment

- On a Susan Brennan/Liz Lear motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am  
***Motion Carried***