



The Town of Fenwick Island

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

August 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Colleen Wilson, Liz Lear, Janice Bortner (Zoom), Susan Brennan, Pam Pridgeon

Other Participants: Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

Staff Participants: Kathy Grab, Lori Dabbondanza

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2024.
 - The July 10, 2024 minutes were approved as submitted on Susan Brennan /Liz Lear motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously

2. Offshore Wind Update.
 - Compliments to Natalie Magdeburger on a well written article on the Offshore Wind. Colleen Wilson thanked Natalie Magdeburger for her advocacy.
 - Natalie Magdeburger feels we have a chance at shutting down the approval.
 - Natalie Magdeburger discussed the meeting and speakers with the committee. She felt it may be a good idea to have the committee have another symposium with everything we have learned. We need to get more people involved.
 - Colleen Wilson discussed some studies that provide proof that the sound of installing Offshore Wind Farms is killing whales.

- Pam Pridgeon stated that she was approached by someone regarding her bumper sticker against Offshore Wind. She noted that they are available from Paws and Claws in West Ocean City.
- Colleen Wilson reported on the National Offshore-wind Opposition Alliance (NOOA) which aims to bring a national profile to what is currently a fractured movement of dozens of local groups. There was agreement that this was a group with which we could align our efforts.
- Colleen Wilson thought it would be a good idea to provide written comments to DNREC from the Environmental Committee. Susan Brennan suggested including a reminder in the upcoming Message from the Mayor. Lori Dabbondanza indicated that we would repost the information on Facebook and the website. The comment period ends on September 9.
- Discussion on the Offshore Turbines that have been breaking or that have caught fire, and the sound that they produce, in general.

3. Pollinator Park Update.

a. Grand Opening on August 31, 2024 4 -6 p.m.

- Susan Brennan stated that the garden has been in for four months now and it is blossoming. A little more effort is needed in the care. She would like to incorporate more hands to help take care of it. There was a thought of the Barefoot Gardeners Club helping. Susan will set up a maintenance schedule and share it with Colleen for the Barefoot Gardeners.
- Colleen Wilson asked Susan Brennan to indicate what will be needed and when/how often.
- There are 10-12 sponsors that have contributed to the garden.
- There is a framed sponsor board that was made by Paul Wilson for the donors.
- Pat's Garden needs to have more plants added in advance of the grand opening.
- Colleen Wilson noted that the Barefoot Gardeners Club has a youth group. She has invited them for a story reading during the grand opening from 4 – 4:40 p.m. Dedication of the park will begin at 5 p.m.
- Discussion of invitations to be sent out, and Natalie Magdeburger stated she will add it to the Message of the Mayor's.
- Liz Lear suggested serving lemonade, water, and some individually packaged garden-themed snacks.

- Parking was discussed. It was noted that with it being held during a holiday weekend, street parking could be an issue. Janice Bortner suggested asking the Chamber of Commerce if we could use their lot for the event. Lori Dabbondanza will call the Chamber of Commerce to find out if that is an option.
- It was determined that this will be a rain or shine event.
- Seed packets will be made as giveaways. Susan Brennan stated instead of making the seed balls, use the little manilla envelopes and do individual seeds in each.
- Two tables will be set up at the entrance. One with refreshments and the seed packets on the other. A trash can will be brought over. It was suggested that sign-up sheets be provided for anyone who would like to volunteer to help with park maintenance.
- Susan Brennan would love to have someone playing music, like a flute or guitar. Liz Lear volunteered to see if someone from the church is available to play. If they cannot find someone to play music, it is possible to have a radio in the background.
- Members of the committee will gather on Thursday, August 22nd at 2 pm at Town Hall to make the seed packets.
- Susan Brennan asked if everyone was available to assist that weekend. Nobody responded that they were not available to help. Lori Dabbondanza will be away that weekend.

b. Next Steps

- Discussed with the update.

4. Old Business

- None

5. New Business

- Janice Bortner brought to the committee that at the last Residential Concerns Committee meeting a suggestion was made to collaborate with other committees, specifically with the Environmental Committee and the Infrastructure Committee regarding education on DarkSky and Green Infrastructure. Susan Brennan stated that on behalf of both groups, the

Residential Concerns Committee needs to figure out exactly what direction and what they want to educate everyone on and prepare a specific ask of the committees they want to collaborate with.

- Natalie Magdeburger thanked the entire committee for the amazing job they have done.

6. Date of the next meeting:

- Discussion about whether the committee needs to meet next month or if taking a month off. Natalie noted that due to the Offshore Wind Farms updates, she believes it would be beneficial to keep the scheduled September 11, 2024 at 9 a.m.

7. Public Participation

- None

8. Adjournment

- On a Colleen Wilson/Susan Brennan motion the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Motion Passed Unanimously