



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

BUSINESS CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Kurt Zanelotti, Chuck Shorley, Betsy Mitchell, Heather Mitchell, Scott Mumford, Matt Patton, Jeff Wendel

Others Present: Lori Dabbondanza, Erin Ellinger, Natalie Magdeburger

Flag Salute and Call to Order at 9:00 am.

Chairman's Remarks

Kurt said there were requests for this meeting and meetings will continue throughout the fall. A restructuring of committees will take place after the council swearing in meeting next week.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the May 7th meeting.

Moved by: Betsy Mitchell

Seconded by: Chuck Shorley

MOTION passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Dark Skies Initiative from the RCC Committee- How to get businesses involved as a way of doing good business practices while saving money.

Kurts said he has spoken to a few business owners, and they are worried how signage would be affected. It's more about getting information out to the businesses. Owners should look at the dark sky's website to find appropriate lighting options.

- Welcome Packets- Advertising for local businesses. We can work through the Chamber possibly.

A third-party vendor, Hometown Press, will be used for welcome packets. Residential Concerns is looking to see if there are enough businesses in Fenwick that would be interested in this. Lori feels this would be very helpful. The current welcome packet process is very time-consuming for staff. The new welcome packet will include advertising for businesses. The only cost to the town would be postage.



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A MOTION was made to approve outreach to Hometown Press and work with them to begin the process of putting together welcome packets.

Moved by: Chuck Shorley

Seconded by: Betsy Mitchell

MOTION passed unanimously.

New Business

- Parking rules discussion.

Scott Mumford said he doesn't feel it's necessary to have the paid parking time extending to 10 pm. and this time frame doesn't fit with the town. There are plenty of parking spaces available after 5 pm. He feels the paid parking time should be from 9 – 5. Chuck feels building codes need to be changed to limit the allowable driveway size to protect the parking spots we have. Driveways being built to extend across the front of lots are taking away from public parking.

Natalie said the time was put in place for a multitude of reasons. Restriping occurs more frequently due to salt/sun. Parking permit monies go towards restriping/street maintenance. All other coastal towns have paid parking through the evening hours. Residents and businesses owners are given three parking passes. Heather suggested making parking more affordable for the businesses who need it.

A MOTION to recommend to council to reconsider the necessary parking permit hours and move time back to 5 pm.

Moved by: Chuck Shorley

Seconded by: Scott Mumford

MOTION passed unanimously.

Bicycle Rack Discussion:

The committee encourages business to have bike racks available. Natalie said the town will help finance this and would like to partner with businesses.

A MOTION to endorse the bike racks

Moved by: Chuck Shorley

Seconded by: Scott Mumford

MOTION passed unanimously.



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Public Participation

Natalie asked if business seems to be slower this year. Scott says customer numbers are down from the year before, but business is good.

Natalie added the State of Delaware approved a 4% tax on rental revenue. Chuck feels the state tax will be passed on to the customer which will increase costs.

Natalie said BOEM has approved the Environmental Impact Statement and building of the windfarms. She encouraged the business community to have a single voice on this. The economic effect will be a 10% loss in property values. Natalie suggested writing to Sussex County representatives & Chamber of Commerce in opposition.

Kurt thanked Matt's Fish Camp and Surf Bagel for donating to the dark sky's & green infrastructure symposium.

Scott and the committee thanks Natalie for all her efforts advocating against wind farms.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2024, at 9 am.

Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 am.

Moved by: Betsy Mitchell

Seconded by: Scott Mumford

MOTION passed unanimously.