



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

September 12, 2024, at 9:00 am.

Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Susan Brennan, Natalie Magdeburger, Ann Riley,
(virtually) Odis Braxton Julie Lee

Others Present: Erin Ellinger, (virtually) Janice Bortner

Call to Order and Flag Salute at 9:05 am.

1. Discuss/approve minutes from meeting held August 15

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2024, meeting.

Moved by: Ann Riley

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

MOTION passed unanimously.

2. Discuss and finalize any recommendations for Committee/Board
Recommendation and Task Matrix

Susan said with the time restrictions on today's meeting, it would be most beneficial to focus on the matrix. She shared the committee matrix with comments from commissioners.

- Item # 8 - Height restrictions vs. free board – This topic started in the C&O Committee and was taken to council. This item should be in both C&O and Infrastructure Committee/Resiliency Working Group to continue to monitor through liaisons.
- Item # 10 Lighting/Light Pollution – Further education on this topic is needed, possibly a PC generated survey of residents to see if it should be looked into further.



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A MOTION to add a matrix item to the Residential Concerns Committee to do more Dark Skies and Green Infrastructure public education symposiums and seminars with speakers.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Julie Lee

MOTION passed unanimously.

Discussion: Ann feels it's important to engage people who aren't here as often, they are not aware of the issue with light pollution/Dark Skies. This issue should be added to item # 14.

A MOTION that the Planning Commission annually plan and undertake a survey to ascertain community support for initiatives/progress of the Comprehensive Plan.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Julie Lee

MOTION passed unanimously.

Discussion: Planning for a survey could take place in the fall after the September committee reports are completed.

- # 11 – enhance landscaping and tree protection standards – the Business Concerns Committee was removed; the Environmental Committee was added. This is primarily geared towards the Residential Concerns Committee and the Environmental Committee has many other issues they are dealing with, i.e., OSW. This topic is related to the Green Infrastructure Working Group.
- # 14 – Per discussion added from #10 Further education on this topic is needed, possibly a PC generated survey of residents to see if it should be looked into further.
- # 17 - Bike and pedestrian safety – Ann feels this falls under the Police Department. The median and sidewalks are already underway. The Chief/town staff is managing signage. Julie added the Pedestrian Safety Committee was originally created as the Sidewalk Committee



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and that purpose is now served. Delete Ped. Leave Town Council/Staff

- # 22 – Invite the DelDOT circuit rider planner to attend town meetings on an annual basis, more if needed – this item will be moved to Town Council on the matrix.
- # 26 Participate in planning processes by DNREC’s Division of Parks and other relevant agencies to promote preservation of the beaches as noncommercialized open space and recreation – This item will be added to Town Council.
- # 29 Advance policies that support pedestrian and bicycle safety – The Police Dept. now manages this. Leave with Town Council
- # 31 Work with DNREC and other coastal partners to identify ways to manage the demand for beach access in light of the continued population growth and heightened tourist demand in Southeast Sussex County – this is being moved from Environmental Committee to Town Council and staff.
- # 34 Advocate for Fenwick’s position regarding Off-shore Wind Energy– this will start in the Environmental Committee and include Town Council.
- # 36, 37, 38 support for safe recreational boating – this is currently handled in the Dredging Committee. The Dredging Committee may be eliminated once the dredging project is over. The boating/navigation portion is handled by Town Council/Staff.
- # 39 sustainable management of Little Assawoman bay – both the Environmental Committee and staff.
- # 40 Promote and participate in sustainable management of Little Assawoman Bay – Leave in Residential Concerns Committee.
- #41 Consider a variety of strategies to protect and increase tree canopy and native landscaping in Fenwick Island, including resident education programs and volunteer opportunities, the planting of trees on existing public lands, and seeking grants to assist in all these efforts - this should be moved from the Infrastructure Committee to the Environmental Committee to include council and staff.
- #44- Work with the Fenwick Island community to determine how to move forward with the recommendations from the 2023 resiliency study, including preparation for potential grant funding, establishing



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a resilience fund, code updates, and potential resiliency design guidelines and standards – Add the Infrastructure Committee.

- #47 Continue evaluating and making improvements to the town’s stormwater infrastructure, including the promotion of rain gardens and other innovative green infrastructure – this will be moved from Infrastructure Committee to staff.
- #52 Continue to seek opportunities to support the health and cultural aesthetics of residents and visitors through parks, recreational opportunities, and open spaces – handled by Town Council and Environmental Committee.
- # 53 Develop an electronic document management system to allow easier sharing of documents with the public – Town Council/Staff will likely oversee this.
- #55 Support environmentally friendly programs and encourage community involvement such as oyster gardening and use of rain barrels – Susan asked if we need a Parks and Recs. Committee? Natalie feels this is the Town Councils department and can be referred to a particular committee as needed.
- #62 Encourage the development of bicycle riding groups and other bicycle centered events – this will be moved to Business Concerns Committee and Town Council.
- #67 Median enhancements such as natural plantings with trees and other landscaping to provide pedestrian refuge, incorporate green infrastructure opportunities, and create a neighborhood environment complimentary to Fenwick's unique character - currently in Pedestrian Safety, will be moved to Town Council and staff.
- #69 Encourage residents and visitors to participate in state-sponsored projects to plant new vegetation on dunes – managed by Environmental Committee.
- #74 Consider resiliency funding – add Infrastructure Committee and Town Council.

3. Commissioner’s comments/requirements/requests

Old business:



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None

Reminder: September is the second submission of the Implementation Report for committee chairs to complete.

New business:

None

Public participation:

None

Next meeting is September 19th at 9:00 am.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Ann Riley

MOTION passed unanimously.