



The Town of Fenwick Island

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www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Jay Ryan, Jack Armstrong (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom), Tim Bergin Zoom), Tim Leahy (Zoom), Nuwan Seneviratne (Zoom), Andy Emerson (Zoom)

Others Present: Kay Malone, Craig Malone, Debbie Shell, Pam Hauck, Pam Schiavino, Cindy (Zoom), John Bishop (Zoom), Anne Riley and Tom Bouchelle

Staff Present: Kathy Grab, Mike Locke

Flag salute and call to order at 10:02 am

1. Approval of prior minutes.

a. Motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting on a Tim Bergin/Tim Leahy motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Welcome to the 2024-2025 Infrastructure Committee - review or questions regarding the Fenwick Island, Committee Guide and Procedures document.

- a. Susan Brennan explained the importance of being on a committee, following the FOIA regulations being on a committee, and thanked everyone for their support and their time.
- b. Susan Brennan gave a brief explanation of the Matrix.
- c. Jay Ryan asked about the working group size, based on what he had read, the size of the working group should not be restricted as they are not taking any action, they collect data and bring it to the committee. They are discussing and making recommendations only not actions.
- d. Tim Bergin stated it bothered him that there were constraints on the working groups, which is why they had the two, he felt there is a lot of talent on the committee that is not engaged in the projects.

e. Susan Brennan said she would clarify and get back with the group.

3. Update from Tim Leahy

a. Straughn Environmental deliverables

- Received the report from the site visit including the new map, 300 photographs, great details, and base information, about 30 pages of tables. Currently two or three streets are missing. All the canals were completed.
- John Bishop from Straughn Environmental explained they tried to focus on the priority streets, starting on North end of town, West of Route 1 and headed South. The report has basic intro and in-depth explanations. They created a new storm water infrastructure map and pdf with the 2024 data. There were about 254 total storm water management structures and 2.12 miles of storm water piping.
- Tim Leahy shared part of the database table that relates to the map and noted that the town owned street end bulkhead information was missing.
- John Bishop will be sending another update with more information soon.
- Pam Schiavino from W. So. Carolina Ave asked if the last time that the mapping was completed was by foot and done a decade ago? Tim Leahy stated yes. She wanted to confirm that it was not guess work, but on foot, Tim Leahy confirmed that this information was based on actual observations and measurements.
- Craig Malone from Madison Ave stated that as everyone knows it is the second lowest street, about 35 years ago a drain was placed on the property from the street to the canal, he stated there are a few end units that are not draining properly and accumulated. He asked that now that everything is found, can the ones that are not working be closed or fixed? Tim Leahy said the purpose of this report was to locate the infrastructure and how to correct the issues is the next step.
- Jay Ryan wanted to advise that on the bulkhead survey, which was incorporated in Straughn's report there was some missing data, and he is updating the report. John Bishop stated that once the information is available, share it with Straughn and they will update the report on their end.
- Tim Leahy stated that at some point, changes that need to be made will be done by us/Public Works and will be an asset to Mike Locke and the department in the future.
- Tim Leahy asked John Bishop about the backflow preventors and if they were able to see what type, size, etc. they were able to verify they were there but not whether they are working. Public Works has a schedule for maintenance on them.
- Tim Leahy will follow up with John Bishop after the meeting to ask more questions regarding the newly issued report.

b. BRIC Grant

- Tim Leahy is hoping to hear by the end of the month whether Fenwick Island will be awarded the FEMA BRIC grant for more than \$400,000 for the purpose of the next step, to design solutions to the locations needed. Engineers will be going around to each location designing solutions.
- Once we receive the notification of the award of the grant, we will need to request bids from 2 or 3 engineering companies for the project and award the contract hopefully in January to start the process in early 2025. It is about 6–8 month design process, it is a multi-year project we will be going through. Adding that once the design phase is completed, there will be a need for funding for the implementation of the construction.
- Tim Leahy stated that had John Bishop been here last week, the photos would have been different, John Bishop stated that he had seen some and it is crazy how high it can get and justifies the need of the project.

c. Resiliency working group - Zillow introduces First Street's climate risk data, on all for-sale listings in U.S.

- Tim Leahy stated that Real Estate agents with Zillow are starting to incorporate climate risk data into their listings, not surprising thought.

d. Briefing on meeting with UD GAP

- Susan Brennan and Tim Leahy met with the University of Delaware Grant Program to ask them about the possibility of creating parks on the bay side street ends that would incorporate resilient infrastructure. The reason for looking at parks is there is grant funding available for green infrastructure.

4. Update from Susan Brennan

a. Sussex County Association of Towns BRIC Presentation FY 2024 (forwarded to members with agenda)

- Susan Brennan and Natalie Magdeburger went to the meeting, she sent the committee the reports. Yesterday she sent the DNREC briefing to everyone.

b. Briefing on DNREC Economic Analysis for Shoreline Management Community Meeting #2

- Susan Brennan wanted to make the committee aware of DNREC suggesting a cost share for beach replenishment. She wanted to advise everyone as we move forward with our projects.

5. Update from Mike Locke

a. Tides, flooding and proposed back flow preventer maintenance (October Full Moon)

- Mike Locke advised about the high tides, October maintenance has not started on the back flow preventors yet, but now that tides have lowered, they should be starting next week and going into November, he has ordered a number of backflow preventors for the ones that were on the list to be replaced already.
- Kay Malone questioned why the full moon is added to the agenda, Susan Brennan stated that October and November's full moon are super moons and October's it is coming up next week. Tim Leahy stated that historically it is our highest tide during the year.
- Mike Locke stated we usually let residents park at the Town Hall during a high tide cycle, please let us know so we can advise the police department.
- Jay Ryan stated it is not the full moon that is causing the high tide but the lunar perigee, you can go online and review the information online.
- The monitor at the end of Madison Ave is owned by USGS. The data is used by the National Weather Service as well, but neither uses the same data. We advise that everyone go by the data provided by USGS. Jay Ryan gave the monitor numbers Fenwick Island: 01484701, South Bethany: 01484696, and Isle of Wight: 0148471370. Just google them and put a maximum of the three locations to compare. https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=01484701&legacy=1 Mike Locke noted that this information is available on the Town website.

b. Street surface maintenance for 2024-25

- Mike Locke spoke to Paul Caldwell, and he is proposing a meeting in October including Susan Brennan.

6. Old Business

a. Jay Ryan-any update to survey of property at Bora Bora and Houston?

- He was able to survey the location and shared with the resident.

7. New Business

- a. Sussex Preservation Coalition [Home | Sussex Preservation \(sussexpreservationcoalition.org\)](https://www.sussexpreservationcoalition.org)

SPC PUBLIC MEETING

**Tuesday October
15th
7:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Lewes Library
111 Adams Ave,
Lewes
1.**

**EVENT IS FREE
REGISTRATION REQUESTED, If Attending
In-Person
RSVP to
SPCDE.ORG@GMAIL.COM**

Attend in-person or via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83129236379>

Our guest speaker will be Danielle Swallow, Coastal Hazard Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant. Danielle will speak about the role of land use planning in managing risks from climate change and extreme weather. She will cover concepts about risk, resilience, and green infrastructure.

- Susan Brennan advised the committee of the SPC Public Meeting in Lewes.
 - Susan Brennan asked if any of the public participants were able to attend the symposiums that the committee has provided over the past two years, one resident stated she had attended the one last year.
 - Susan Brennan stated that she has heard about the following streets on flooding questions: W. Georgetown, W. Atlantic, and W. So. Carolina.
 - Jay Ryan stated the notice from Geri Verlaque's IDAP meeting last week in Bethany Beach, he went and indicated it was interesting. If you go online, it brings you to the DNREC webpage with ideas for residents to help with local flooding.
8. Public Participation
- a. Kay Malone asked for the timeline of any actual upgrades.
- Tim Leahy said the design stage is next and since we don't know the design, we don't know the construction schedule. But he said it is at least one-two years away. Minor maintenance from the town will be able to happen. Susan Brennan

stated that Fenwick Island needs the grant money first. Following up with Mike Locke about the maintenance of the pipes, he stated they look at the pipes for cracks, the backflow they review for seal failures, clean them out. They are trying their best to do these yearly by going through the check list which is available online.

- Kay Malone asked what they could do to help, Mike Locke suggested not adding all the gravel in the front lawns as it clogs up pipes, not driving on them, and debris removal. Review their basin before it gets too bad and let town hall know or clean it out yourself. Craig Malone stated that there is standing water in the road, Mike Locke stated that the ground is saturated, and it takes longer for the water to leave.
- b. Jay Ryan brought up from the previous meeting Geri Verlaque's husbands' suggestion of using riprap to help with the flooding, he suggested doing a test run.
- Tim Leahy stated that John Bishop mentioned this location as a test case as well. It was in Straughn's presentation at the forum last month.
 - Susan Brennan asked if we should vote on putting together a design and budget and asked if Jay Ryan would like to head it up. Jay Ryan agreed and would like to work with John Bishop as he has a design that he thinks would work pretty well.
 - Susan Brennan asked if everyone was in favor of the suggestion, and everyone agreed, and it will be brought to the next meeting.

9. Next Meeting

- a. November 12, 2024, at 10 a.m.

10. Adjournment

- a. **Moton to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. on a Tim Bergin/Jay Ryan Motion**

Motion passed unanimously.