



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**October 9, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**

**Town Hall**

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Colleen Wilson, Joel Patten (Zoom), Betsy Patten (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom), Liz Lear, Vicki Carmean, Pam Pridgeon

**Other Participants:** Natalie Magdeburger

**Staff Participants:** Kathy Grab

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2024.

a. **Motion to approve the minutes from September 11, 2024 on a Vicki Carmean /Liz Lear motion.**

***Motion Passed Unanimously***

2. Acknowledgement of the new Committee Guide and Procedures

a. Colleen Wilson welcomed new members Joel and Betsy Patten and returning members Susan Brennan, Liz Lear, Vicki Carmean, Pam Pridgeon, and Deborah Cowell

b. Susan Brennan advised that everyone should have received the Town of Fenwick Island Committee Guide and Procedure, and gave a short explanation of the guide, FOIA requirements, and Implementation of the Comprehensive Planning.

### 3. Offshore Wind Update

- a. Colleen Wilson indicated that a lot has happened in the last month, and asked if anyone went to the meeting in Ocean City.
  - Susan Brennan went to the meeting for the new proposed lease areas sponsored by BOEM which was like the forum that was at the IRHS last summer. The lease is known as the Central Atlantic 2 (NJ through DE, MD, VA, and NC) 3.5 miles off the coast which is federal water.
  - They are accepting comments through around the 21st of this month for this lease.
  - Vicki Carmean stated that everyone has gone to so many of these symposiums, hearings, and forums and everyone goes in prepared in agreement that they do not want these offshore, and all that happens is the rubber stamp of approval. She feels that they are trying to wear the people down and is concerned about this.
  - Colleen Wilson stated that there are a few lawsuits in our area against the offshore winds, one being filed by the Caesar Rodney Institute.
  - Colleen Wilson asked about the Ocean City lawsuit, Natalie Magdeburger stated the lawyers are still collecting information. A notice of filing a lawsuit will be filed soon.
  - Natalie Magdeburger stated that the Sussex County Commissioners' meeting is the one that we need to go to oppose the off shore wind farms.
  - Susan Brennan shared the Central Atlantic 2 Call Area from the meeting she attended and showed the new proposed area.
  - Vicki Carmean stated that with the election is coming up it, people still seem to not know what is going on and we need to inform them.
  - Susan Brennan stated that maybe it is time to have another symposium to educate residents, Natalie Magdeburger agreed.
  - Natalie Magdeburger talked about the IRHS engineering students that spoke at Town Council would be a good choice, Gerald Hocker, Ron Gray, and other speakers as well. Maybe join forces with Ocean City.
  - Vicki Carmean, who would be the target audience? She stated that while those closely affected by it are against it, how do you get other communities to understand how negative it is, Natalie Magdeburger stated that you need to go out to the communities and express the dangers. Big event.
  - Susan Brennan stated she needs to be convinced offshore wind farms are the way to go, like a debate. Colleen Wilson asked then who would the speakers be? The ones making all the decisions for us?

- Vicki Carmean stated that the legislators making the decisions, she is aware of their background, they are all from upstate, when she saw the list of the legislators, none of them from southern Delaware. Seems like we are running out of new ideas to get the information out to people.
- Vicki Carmean stated maybe this is something that we should think about and bring back next month. Colleen Wilson agreed to table this to the next meeting.
- Joel Patten likes the idea of combining Ocean City, events outside of our area may be something to think about.
- Natalie Magdeburger asked if anyone has National Media Contacts? National Attention is needed. Joel Patten stated that he has traveled extensively in the Midwest, has a huge amount of wind turbines, farm land has been converted to the wind farms. Iowa state has a large amount of them and half probably are not working. Not sure how to get a connection to National Media.
- Vicki Carmean stated we still need to get the information out there, we just need a fresh approach. Betsy Patton feels the public needs to know what politicians are supporting the wind farms and which are not.
- Colleen Wilson requested to table the discussion to next meeting.

#### 4. Pollinator Park Update

- a. Colleen Wilson updated that it is still blooming, deadheading worked.
  - She will discuss with the Barefoot Gardeners meeting on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> about the list from Susan Brennan.
  - Susan Brennan will be in town next week and would be happy to meet with any volunteers.
  - Vicki Carmean asked if we thought about expanding the pollinator garden out to the community for volunteers, a town committee social thing there, a meet and greet there to thank them for participating.
  - Susan Brennan stated it is her intent and hopes it is of others to leave the blossoms and whatever for the birds to eat over the winter, she will be doing more seed saving. She feels the soil needs to be enriched, she has taken the dead parsley and such, dug trenches and buried it, it needs more leaves and horse manure.
  - Susan Brennan spoke with Mike Locke and he had suggested about another tank in there, it will make it easier for the Public Works for filling the tanks and also for the committee when watering.

- Colleen Wilson stated that the donation sign needs work, Susan Brennan is aware but is waiting on the final list of donations before finishing the name plates.

5. Old Business

- a. None

6. New Business

a. Susan Brennan brought up finding a date for Earth Day & DNREC Beach Grass

- Colleen Wilson stated it is April 22, which is a Tuesday, April 26 was agreed upon for their Earth Day participation/celebration.
- Discussion on what other towns and the state will be doing, will need to research into it.
- Susan Brennan asked Colleen Wilson to connect for DNREC regarding planting of beach grass. Colleen Wilson explained how DNREC picks beaches for planting the beach grass.
- Susan Brennan looked online for Delaware Earth day 2025 and the theme is Our Power, Our Planet, "is perhaps our most important theme ever. This year we will shine a spotlight on renewable energy – four our power, fore our people, and our planet."

7. Date of the next meeting:

- a. November 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

8. Public Participation

- a. None

9. Adjournment

- a. **On a Vicki Carmean/Susan Brennan motion the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.**

***Motion Passed Unanimously***