



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

September 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Kurt Zanelotti, Chuck Shorley, Jeff Wendel (via Zoom), Betsy Mitchell, Edward Kramer (via Zoom), Lucy Wilder, Scott Mumford (joined via Zoom at 9:55 a.m.)

Others Present: Erin Ellinger, Lori Dabbondanza, Mr. Brzostowski, Emily Gaither (Chamber of Commerce via Zoom), Police Chief Morrissey, Natalie Magdeburger

Flag Salute and Call to Order at 9:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2024, meeting.

Moved by: Chuck Shorley

Seconded by: Betsy Mitchell

MOTION passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Parking rules discussion.

Kurt Zanelotti said a motion was made at the last meeting for the council to look into changing the parking hours from 8-5 pm. It was not seconded at the Town Council meeting and didn't go to a vote. A committee member felt that since it was voted on by the committee it should have been discussed at the council meeting. Natalie responded that in 2022 a Council & Committee Procedure Policy was created that is unique to Fenwick but follows Robert's Rule of Order closely. That manual states that if there is not a second it does not go to a vote and will be sent back to the committee and this issue was handled correctly. Kurt suggested that if this is something that is important to the committee they should find a work around that is palatable to the town, residents and businesses. Natalie said the income generated between the hours of 5 – 10 pm. pays for our Parking Officer and there is clearly a need for paid parking on certain streets. She added that a special business pass could be a solution. Natalie said all other coastal communities have paid parking hours until 10 pm. and there is a tremendous amount of available parking in business lots (over 800 spots total). She said there is an opening in the ordinance for businesses to work with each other with shared parking. Chuck hopes the council will continue to discuss this issue. Natalie said the motion should come from the committee. James and Houston Streets are the two lowest paid parking streets in town, whereas Atlantic and Bayard are the highest paid parking streets.



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A MOTION to table this issue until the next meeting when Scott Mumford is available to discuss further.

Moved by: Chuck Shorley

Seconded by: Betsy Mitchell

MOTION passed unanimously.

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

Kurt said the Dark Skies Working Group has done a great job of sharing the information for the initiative and noted they are looking for ways to encourage businesses to take Dark Skies into account when making lighting upgrades to their property. Chuck wrote to all his tenants and asked them to be cognizant of this issue.

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

Lori said she spoke to a contact at Hometown Press to find out the next steps. We would have to decide how many issues we would want to send out each year and the timing of the issues. Kurt said it would be fine to send him the information he requested. Chuck asked how often changes would be needed and that he thought one issue per year could be sufficient. He said businesses could be assessed yearly. Kurt suggested doing two issues per year. One could come out in May. The packets would include important phone numbers, restaurants in town, trash schedule, council members, state representatives, etc. It is paid for by the advertisers and the town would cover the mailing costs. Lori suggested offering advertising to town business license holders. Emily Gaither from the Chamber of Commerce added they already have an annual visitor guide and offered to share some of their guides as a lot of the information the committee discussed is already included in their guide.

New Business

Chuck complimented the Council and Mayor for joining Ocean City in the wind farm lawsuit. Natalie encouraged everyone to pay attention to Sussex County and their proposed vote to consider a transmission station at the Indian River Inlet. She said the businesses have a role to play. Kurt said everyone needs to contact Sussex County Representative and the Sussex County website has everyone's contact information. There is no benefit from the proposed wind farms to Sussex County. Kurt added that businesses would be greatly affected by this. Natalie offered to speak and share her presentation with anyone who would be interested. Natalie shared how the size of the turbines has increased by 600 ft. since first presented and the turbines will only be 10



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miles off our shores. She also talked about how fish, marine mammals and commercial fishing will all be negatively affected. She commented on the damages that occurred in Nantucket, who had agreed to a community benefits package and now want to renegotiate. Natalie said this is an immediate danger to our way of life. The Environmental Committee will be planning another symposium regarding this topic. Natalie will be putting a summary highlighting key points in her next Message from the Mayor Newsletter.

Lucy suggested adding a baby swing in the park.

A MOTION to the Town Council to add a baby swing in the park that will be underwritten by the business community and by personal donations.

Moved by: Lucy Wilder

Seconded by: Betsy Mitchell

MOTION passed unanimously.

Public Participation

Police Chief Morrissey is recruiting one member to the Police Accountability Commission to sit on the board from Fenwick. He said the group will meet quarterly to discuss local issues and he asked if anyone in the Business Committee would be interested. Meetings will take place in Ocean View Town Hall. Scott Mumford said he would be happy to volunteer.

Natalie reminded everyone to sign up for committees for the new 2024 – 2025 term.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2024, at 9 a.m.

Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Chuck Shorley

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

MOITON passed unanimously.