



The Town of Fenwick Island

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RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

November 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Janice Bortner (Zoom), Deb Cowell (Zoom), Stu Rubenstein (Zoom), George Stone (Zoom), Sharon Harris (Zoom), Rose Mary Hoy, Geri Verlaque (Zoom), Kate Norman (Zoom)

Other Participants: Ann Riley (Zoom), Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom),

Staff: Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order at 10:02 am

1. Approval of the October 7, 2024 meeting minutes

a. **Motion to approve October 7, 2024 meeting minutes on a Rose Mary Hoy/ Stu Rubenstein motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Possible Action.

a. Green Infrastructure Working Group – November 14th Zoom Presentation by Megan Noe Fellows and Bob Collins from Inland Bays

- Janice Bortner gave a brief description of the upcoming meeting on November 14th.
- Deb Cowell gave a brief update on the Green Infrastructure Working Group with her slideshow.
- Slides attached.

b. Donated Land Project and Future Grants

- Deb Cowell has received more information from the town of the land that was gifted to the town. Taryn Davidson from Delaware Forest Service follow-up by Janice Bortner to discuss the project and future grants.

- Deb Cowell also researched the Austin Okie Family and their history of support for conservation. They have donated property or financial help to go towards nature conservancy. This is a family legacy, and she is excited about this project.
 - Deb Cowell showed the map of the property layout that the group has to work with and gave the parameters to work with.
 - Deb Cowell is looking to add a follow-up meeting for the Green Infrastructure Working Group in November.
 - George Stone asked if those who cannot attend the meeting will it be recorded so that they can watch after. Deb Cowell stated yes that she will be recording it.
 - Rose Mary Hoy asked if individual homeowners would have direct value in terms of how they can specifically do things to their property. Deb Cowell responded that yes there will be.
 - Janice Bortner stated that between Taryn Davidson, Bob Collins, and Meghan Noe Fellows, all are willing to come to residents to help them.
 - Janice Bortner stated that now the land is public, we have more grant opportunities.
- c. New Members for the Green Infrastructure Working Group
- Stu Rubenstein has stepped up to help the Green Infrastructure Working Group.
 - Deb Cowell would like to know everyone's availability to meet in November.
- d. DarkSky Initiative Ad Hoc Committee's first meeting November 12, 2024 8:30-9:30 - Future Initiatives in the RCC to Support the DarkSky Principles Supported in the Fenwick Island Comprehensive Plan
- Janice Bortner stated that Ad Hoc DarkSky has their first meeting on November 12th at 8:30 a.m. and hopes to have more new members interested in working with them. Rose Mary Hoy has worked hard with this committee. Janice reviewed the agenda for the meeting with the group.
 - Rose Mary Hoy stated she feels that they always need to focus on education, it is important. While they will review the progress and the mission statement. Rose Mary Hoy stated ultimately, they would like to ask the Town Council to approve revisiting the town lighting ordinance, as it is very old, like approximately 23 years old. Updating it to current technology and align it to be current and appropriate.
 - Rose Mary Hoy stated that if anyone knows of someone who is interested, they are looking. She asked if anyone has signed up yet for the committee, Janice Bortner will find out.
- e. Other Concerns and Discussion by Committee Members
- None
- f. Members Participation in Committee Initiatives
- None

3. Old Business

a. Welcome Packets

- The Business Committee will be working with Hometown Press.
- Businesses will pay for their ads to be included in the guide and the town will pay postage.
- Town staff will work on making updates to the packets as needed.

b. Signage

- New traffic sign for W. Atlantic Street for no public access, this concern will need to be addressed with Chief Morrissey.
- Evaluating exits and traffic patterns at the strip malls between Farmington and Georgetown, this issue will need to be addressed with DELDOT with the sidewalk design plan of 2029, along with that at Bayard Street. Again, anyone with safety issues should contact Chief Morrissey.
- Park Mobil concerns on Bayard Street, which was brought up by a resident, will be added to the Town Council agenda to have Chief Morrissey review as well.
- Janice Bortner advised that the council stated that the Residential Concerns Committee is not to discuss traffic concerns in the meetings because traffic concerns are not part of the Residential Concerns Committee's matrix.
- Deb Cowell thanked Janice Bortner for her efforts, and states that it is a serious safety issue, and she is sorry that they feel it is not part of the residential concerns committee. She stated on her last trips, that there were streets with signs that had Dead End or No Turnaround signs, posting these types of signs. Something needs to be done, it is unacceptable in her book. Maybe due to the public parking spots on the street. Discussion ensued on producing some creative ways to address the issues.
- Natalie Magdeburger would like to answer some of the questions that Deb Cowell had, she is right, having a sign on the street, there needs to be something enforceable to have it there. There is public parking on the street, so barring people to go down that street is not possible at this time, but we can look at other issues and discuss at the council level at a later time. As we are currently working with all state and non-state departments we need to keep it there. For Geri Verlaque's issue, that is a DELDOT issue, they approve or disapprove these, it needs to be addressed with Chief Morrissey so we can look into it and address it. Chief Morrissey is looking into other signage for crosswalks.

4. New Business

a. Lisa Swanger from Inland Bays

- Offered trees to the Town, unfortunately the town was not able to utilize these trees, and she was hoping to find homes for residents of Fenwick Island, but she was not able to do so.

- She will be sending events to Janice Bortner which will in turn she will send out to the committee.
- b. Thanks to Stu Rubenstein for offering to help with the new land project.
5. Public Participation
- None
6. Future Meeting.
- a. December 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
7. Adjourn.
- **Motion to adjourn on Geri Verlaque/Rose Mary Hoy motion at 10:39 am**
Motion passed unanimously.