



The Town of Fenwick Island

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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from December 10, 2024.

a. **Motion to eliminate the last sentence from item 5 b 3rd bullet point on a Jon Miller/Tim Leahy motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

b. **Motion to approve December 10, 2024 minutes with the eliminated sentence at the end of 5 b 3rd bullet on a Tim Leahy/Nuwan Senevirantne motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Update from Tim Leahy.

a. Bayside Stormwater Management and Flood Protection Working Group and Bric Grant

- The group met on December 19, 2024, to review the first draft of the RFP.
- No new updates on the BRIC Grant.

- Susan Brennan is working with Phil Cane at DEMA to confirm fund release. The scope is approved; the next step is signing the Grant Agreement.
- The federal funding should not be affected by changes in administration.
- The group is working on the second RFP draft and plans to review it next week.
- Continued support from Laurie Spagnola at the University of Delaware for refining the RFP.
- There are aspects of the work that will need to be done over the next few years, including things like a benefit cost analysis which can be funded under a separate grant.
- The RFP should be ready by next month, with consensus on the approach.
- Some parts of the RFP will be handled via separate procurement.

b. Straughn is still engaged with the committee.

- Tim Leahy proposed allocating \$1,000-\$1,500 for an ArcGIS license, pending Council approval.
- Natalie Magdeburger suggested Susan Brennan ask Bill Rymer to include this in the budget.
- Training for GIS will be included, as committee members and employees at Town Hall need the training.

3. Update from Mike Locke, Public Works.

a. Susan Brennan reported on behalf of Mike Locke

- Public Works cleared streets, and driveway ends of current residents as needed after the snowstorm. It was a wonderful thing that a small town can do and a great way to help your neighbors. They did an outstanding job.
- Mike Locke is working on an RFP for spring street maintenance, with Mott MacDonald to handle the proposals and pricing. Susan Brennan will follow up.

4. Old Business

a. Hesco Barriers Pricing

- Jay Ryan asked about pricing from Straughn for Hesco barriers.
- Tim Leahy will find the pricing and send it out for the next meeting's discussion.

5. New Business

a. DE Risk Reduction Consultation, 6-month check-in.

- Susan Brennan received an email a few weeks ago regarding this, it confused her, but she did attend the meeting yesterday and was so glad she did. It was held by FEMA and DEMA.
- Discussion of a new program that DEMA is putting in place. It is a hazard mitigation program site to help with the flooding issues. Discussed some parts about the grants, and the new online GIS mitigation platform. Also, they discussed the Climate Action Plan. The University of Delaware is going to do a Grant webinar scheduled for January 28th at 10:00 a.m.
- Susan Brennan will send an email thanking Will Etheridge and Phil Cane for the invitation and request more details.
- Susan Brennan asked the committee about their thoughts on asking Phil Cane to attend the February meeting. Tim Leahy felt it was a great idea and a benefit to us.
- Natalie Magdeburger asked if Phil Cane will stay in his position under the new administration and if Susan Brennan had spoken with him. Susan Brennan has not but will mention it in her email. Andrew Emerson suggested having an agenda to ensure a productive meeting. Susan Brennan agreed and suggested Phil Cane speak on the new platform being rolled out.
- Susan Brennan feels optimistic after the meeting and eager to explore the program.

b. Tim Bergin contacted Danielle Swallow.

- Tim Bergin emphasized the need for the committee to be more engaged and build stronger connections, encouraging more people to attend meetings.
- He contacted Danielle Swallow about the working group's new name and hopes to collaborate, potentially having her speak at a public meeting in spring or summer on resiliency.
- Danielle Swallow is a valuable resource due to her ongoing involvement.
- She recommended marking March 5 for the RASCL summit in Dover, where the state climatologist will update Delaware's evolving climate.
- RASCL is a collaborative network of state agencies, nonprofits, and academic institutions. The summit costs \$15, including breakfast, coffee, and lunch.
- Susan Brennan will connect 's with Erin Ellinger to learn more about RASCL and update the committee.

c. Tom Carper Major Funding Act

- Tim Leahy reported on funding from the Act. Further research will follow.
- Andrew Emerson warned that ongoing budget negotiations could affect funding, including BRIC grants.
- Natalie Magdeburger raised concerns about natural disasters impacting BRIC funding. Andrew Emerson noted the uncertainty around funding, with FEMA and hazard mitigation programs being affected.

6. Public Participation

- a. NONE

7. Next Meeting

- a. February 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:44 a.m. on a Jack Armstrong/Andrew Emerson Motion.

Motion passed unanimously.