



The Town of Fenwick Island

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Colleen Wilson; Liz Lear (Zoom); Susan Brennan (Zoom)

Other Participants: Natalie Magdeburger

Staff Participants: Kathy Grab

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2024.
 - a. Tabled to the next meeting on February 12, 2025, there was not a quorum.
2. Offshore Wind Update.
 - a. Susan Brennan spoke on behalf of the Town Council. The Town of Fenwick Island has engaged with Ocean City in their lawsuit. The Council has also agreed to engage in a lawsuit with Caesar Rodney Institute VS. Shawn Garvin and DNREC. It has to do with the way they proceeded with the permitting and the public participation aspects of the procedures. Susan Brennan believes it also included the Coastal Zone Act.
 - b. It came out just yesterday that DNREC has signed agreements with US Wind to pursue renewable energy.
 - c. Colleen Wilson will be attending the meeting in Ocean City at the Convention Center that will discuss issues with air quality and wind farms that the Maryland Department of Environment is putting on if anyone is interested in going.

- d. Sussex County Council voted down allowing the lines to come into the 3 R's Beach. It was noted that there are luxury ocean front homes that are currently being built there.
- e. President Donald Trump spoke yesterday against wind farms, which will hopefully help the anti-OSW cause.
- f. Regarding the Caesar Rodney lawsuit, Natalie Magdeburger stated they are working with a great lawyer Jane Brady, who was one of Delaware's Attorney Generals and one of the first women Attorney Generals. They have some really good appeal points. One of the issues was that there was a lot of documentation that got uploaded after the time of the public participation. She thought over 500 pages of documents, mainly the mitigation plan. There is clearly a conflict of interest.
- g. Natalie Magdeburger will be connecting with Ocean City and with Caesar Rodney on how individuals can donate.
- h. Natalie Magdeburger spoke on President Trump's speech on the Wind Farm. He's got it, OSW isn't efficient. She was told that there is a shift going towards nuclear power.
- i. Colleen Wilson asked if Natalie Magdeburger would be available at Earth Day to speak about the Offshore Wind. Natalie Magdeburger stated that even if President Trump shuts the wind farms down, it's only good for four years.
- j. Natalie Magdeburger stated that representative Doug Hudson who was a big leader in voting down the transmission station is now the new President of the Sussex County Council along with John Rieley as the new Vice President. Both are very good and strong leaders.

3. 2025 Planning for Pollinator Park

- a. Susan Brennan stated she was there the weekend after Christmas, and it is still amazing. Colleen Wilson stated that Barbara Peters used to say, "Your garden is only as good as it is in the winter." Susan Brennan stated that it must be beautiful with all the snow. The group really wanted it to be a four-season garden, that was their wish, and it worked. It is flourishing and there are plenty of seeds for the birds to enjoy.
- b. Susan Brennan stated that spring maintenance is going to be needed beginning in March.

- c. Colleen Wilson stated there was a group from the Barefoot Gardeners Club that wanted to help with the Pollinator Park. She will find the list and towards the end of February she will contact them, letting them know and what they need to bring. Maybe it can be the same weekend as the Beach Grass Planting.
 - d. Liz Lear asked if anyone had seen the Lantana that is at the end of the driveway of Phil Craig's home, it is a forever Lantana. Beautiful.
 - e. There were a few plants that struggled, but for the most part everything did well. Inventory will need to be made on what comes back, what needs to be replaced, what plants need to be moved. We need to add soil to help hold on to the water and mulch on the top. Adding some compost that will help hold water as well.
 - f. Another cistern will be ordered, and Public Works will be filling it as well.
 - g. Susan Brennan asked if the group would like another garden party. Colleen Wilson stated it was a really nice community activity and Liz Lear agreed, stating it was great.
 - h. Barefoot Gardeners Club would like to have a couple of children's sessions in the garden this summer. Colleen Wilson will get more information from them.
 - i. Susan was at the Inland Bay Garden and Nursery and spoke to Cheryl. They are putting together a list of Pollinator Garden and Park Trails and would like to add Fenwick Island's Park to the list.
4. Beach Grass Planting – March 15, 2025?
- a. Advertising will be done on Facebook and Website once the date is confirmed by Jennifer at DNREC.
 - b. Volunteers will be asked to sign up online so that DNREC knows how many supplies to bring for the beach grass planting.
5. Earth Day April 26, 2025
- a. In the past, refreshments and giveaways were available. Displays and supplies for cleanup were as well.
 - b. Susan Brennan was thinking about an educational display of some kind. A compost bin be great to add to the pollinator park would be an idea to demonstrate at Earth Day. DNREC usually has them for a discounted price in the spring. Susan Brennan will look into this.

- c. Door prize ideas – seed packets, there is a lot of seeds still at the garden and leftover small packets. Colleen Wilson will go and collect the seeds. Susan Brennan wondered if Inland Bays Garden and Nursery would be willing to donate something.
 - d. Natalie Magdeburger is willing to speak on the Wind Farms at Earth Day.
- 6. Old Business.
 - a. None.
- 7. New Business.
 - a. Natalie Magdeburger stated she will add Beach Grass Planting and Earth Day dates to her Message from the Mayor.
 - b. Liz Lear stated she read somewhere that on the west coast they are researching surf or wave power. She will look for the article and send it to the committee. Natalie Magdeburger stated that she has seen it as well and thought of the Indian River Inlet with the speed of the water that moves through the inlet. There was a big contract with the Federal Government and Constellation Energy for Nuclear Power increasing the grid for the AI centers being built.
- 8. Date of the next meeting.
 - a. Next meeting will be February 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- 9. Public Participation.
 - a. None.
- 10. Adjournment.
 - a. Adjourn at 9:42 a.m. by Colleen Wilson/Susan Brennan.