



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

February 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Janice Bortner (Zoom), George Stone (Zoom), Rose Mary Hoy (Zoom), Sharon Harris (Zoom), Geri Verlaque (Zoom), Deb Cowell (Zoom), Cindy Kerns (Zoom)

Other Participants: Mayor Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom), Planning Commission Chair Susan Brennan (Zoom), Scott Mumford (Zoom)

Staff: Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order at 10:00 am

1. Approval of the December 2, 2024 and January 16, 2025 meeting minutes

- a. **Motion to approve December 2, 2024 meeting minutes of on a Rose Mary Hoy/Geri Verlaque motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Motion to approve January 16, 2025 meeting minutes of on a Geri Verlaque/Rose Mary Hoy motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Possible Action.

- a. Deborah Cowell – Green Infrastructure Working Group Update to full committee.

- The first meeting of the year was on January 30th.
- The minutes/notes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

- Carol Anderson-Austra, a landscape architect, agreed to help develop an architectural plan for the park.
- Stephen Price Lee from Botanical Gardens volunteered time to evaluate plant material and lighting in the park. He will do a walkthrough in mid-February and a follow-up walkthrough with committee members will be scheduled. Mayor Magdeburger asked to be included with the walkthrough along with Mike Locke.
- The group discussed existing pathways with natural materials, which both Carol and Stephen approved.
- Bi-weekly meetings of the working group have been scheduled from February 20th until Memorial Day. The agenda and meetings will be noticed at least 7 days in advance of the meeting and notes will be taken to share with the RCC at the next RCC scheduled meeting.
- Natalie Magdeburger requested that a motion be made to the committee including the name and affiliation of the individuals doing the design and walk throughs.
- **Motion to approve the volunteer service of Stephen Price Lee from the Delaware Botanical Gardens for an initial evaluation, including pictures and written information, and to request a proposal Carol Anderson-Austra for an architectural diagram of the park on a Deborah Cowell/Geri Verlaque motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

- Mayor Natalie Magdeburger will build the information about the new park into the Message from the Mayor and will ask for volunteers to help with the project. Mayor Magdeburger also stated that she asked for interested volunteers in the last Town Council meeting.
- Janice Bortner stated Miss Utility is also on the list to come out and evaluate the property. Natalie Magdeburger advised to make a second motion to approve requesting Miss Utility to come to the property to evaluate.
- **Motion to approve the request for Miss Utility to come in and mark the property and to have unofficial corner points placed by Public Works for planning purposes on a Deborah Cowell/Janice Bortner motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Communication Between Town Hall and the Community.

- Janice Bortner stated several residents expressed that they were not adequately informed about the January 3rd Town Hall hearing, especially regarding changes to ordinances and procedures that could impact their quality of life. She thought that with the holiday season and the large seasonal population having things done off-season made it harder to reach residents, many who are over 60 and not regularly checking the website. She suggested

implementing a bi-monthly email with information about changes in ordinances, upcoming meetings, and contact details for Town Hall.

- Mayor Natalie Magdeburger responded, stating that the current Council has focused during the last three year on getting more information out including website update, every other month Message from the Mayor and Facebook announcements. Mayor Magdeburger stated that implementing a bi-monthly email system could be difficult from a time commitment perspective as the Message from the Mayors take many hours to produce. Further, sending out too many email messages could be counterproductive as people may actually delete Messages because they come out too often. She also mentioned that Council members are available to provide accurate and up-to-date information and inquiries can come from residents. If a resident wants to follow an issue there are many ways to do so but they also have to have an interest and pursue that interest.
- Rose Mary Hoy added that given Fenwick's seasonal nature, it is difficult for residents to stay informed during the off-season. Her recommendation is for the Town Council to consider scheduling ordinance changes and public hearings only during the spring and summer months when more residents are present, to ensure greater participation and inclusivity.
- The group discussed improving communication on important town updates, such as the noise ordinance. Ideas included a "splash page" on the website, brief email alerts, and using surveys for resident feedback.
- **Motion to bring to Town Council to consider undertaking modifications of the website to include upcoming important decision points, events, milestones, and opportunities for input on key issues as part of the landing page or homepage on a George Stone/Sharon Harris motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Surf Bagel lighting Update.

- Mayor Natalie Magdeburger confirmed that the lighting has not been adjusted despite being given a deadline to do so and next steps will be pursued. Updates will be provided.

b. Wiring on utility poles and the Verizon damaged boxes.

- Janice Bortner asked whether Natalie Magdeburger or Susan Brennan can speak with Mike Locke on the status of this.

c. Welcome Packets.

- Janice Bortner stated that she is assuming that the packets will be updated for the upcoming season. She is not aware of where the Business Committee is on Hometown Press. She will attend the next meeting and report back to the RCC.

4. New Business

a. Planning Commission

- Susan Brennan from the Planning Commission discussed the DarkSky Ad Hoc Committee's tasks, including promoting education on the initiative and reviewing lighting ordinances. Susan Brennan confirmed that the Comprehensive Plan endorsed education but did not adopt any specific provision of DarkSky. Susan Brennan stated that more needs to be done to education people what "it" is. Susan Brennan suggested that the DarkSky Committee raise awareness with different events which could include celestial events like meteor showers or full moon parties. The Planning Commission plans to attend the next DarkSky meeting to share updates/ideas.
- Rose Mary Hoy thanked Susan Brennan and emphasized the importance of educating residents to raise awareness and encourage behavior change regarding DarkSky principles. The next meeting date is TBD, and Susan Brennan is invited to attend.

5. Public Participation

a. NONE

6. Future Meeting.

a. March 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn.

a. **Motion to adjourn on a Geri Verlaque /Janice Bortner motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.