



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**February 19, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

**Town Hall**

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Colleen Wilson, Vicki Carmean, Deborah Cowell (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom), Joel Patten (Zoom), Betsy Patten (Zoom).

**Other Participants:** Janice Bortner (Zoom)

**Staff Participants:** Kathy Grab

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2024 and January 8, 2025.

**a. Motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 2024 on a Vicki Carmean/Susan Brennan motion.**

***Motion passed unanimously.***

**b. January 8, 2025 meeting notes as is, no quorum for the meeting on January 8, 2025.**

2. Offshore Wind Update.

a. Colleen Wilson discussed the letter from Caesar Rodney Institute

- The letter, co-signed by Fenwick Island and many others, was sent to the new Secretary of the Interior regarding wind farm projects across the country.
- Natalie Magdeburger, a major advocate against wind farms, is drafting a letter to McBride, compiling information on wind farms.

- Natalie Magdeburger is in an article in the Coastal Point [Magdeburger talks wind turbines with McBride](#).
- Colleen Wilson stated we are in a holding pattern pending the new President's review.
- Vicki Carmean expressed difficulty understanding how both local and state governments proceeded with approval despite public objections.

### 3. Pollinator Park.

#### a. Spring Cleanup Beginning in March.

- The park was designed as a 4-season park, with leaves, stems, and seed pods left for birds to feed on, which has been successful.
- Susan Brennan visited there in January, and it looks great with some plants still blooming.
- Remediation will begin next month, including adding a soil mix with compost and ground leaves, needing about four bags per bed (7 beds and 2 red dogwoods).
- Supplies will be purchased from available donation funds.
- Minimal replacement needed (parsley and lantana). Susan Brennan mentioned it as being a science experiment.
- A second cistern will be ordered for Public Works to fill.
- Susan Brennan is looking into a composter from DNREC, possibly placing it on the ocean side of the park.
- The Barefoot Gardeners' involvement was discussed with Colleen Wilson needing details on when and where.
- The cleanup date is set for March 14, 2025, with bags delivered March 13, 2025. Volunteers may also help with clipping plants.
- Deborah Cowell raised the stormwater runoff issue in Fenwick Island and suggested diverting rainwater from a neighbor's downspout to a cistern. Susan Brennan noted the homes are too far apart for this to be feasible.

- Colleen Wilson stated the neighbors have been very cooperative and very agreeable, she would be hesitant to make that request. But felt it was a great idea for other areas in Fenwick.
- Vicki Carmean said about 10 years ago there was a big push for people to use rain barrels. There was even a contest in town to decorate them.

b. Plan Community Event.

- Susan Brennan proposed another garden party, which was well-received last year. The date was set for June 21, 2025, at 4 p.m., with snacks, drinks, and possibly BYOB.

4. Beach Grass Planting – March 15, 2025 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

a. Online Registration.

- Registration is open via DNREC, with a link on the Fenwick Island website: [35th Annual Beach Grass Planting](#).
- Colleen Wilson would like to print out pictures and have them laminated to share with volunteers on where planting is needed.
- Susan Brennan advised that Colleen Wilson included this information in her recap of the Environmental Committee during the February 28<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. The photos could be shared while she is speaking.

5. Earth Day Bay to Beach Cleanup - April 26, 2025.

a. Assignments/Supplies.

- Town Hall will order compostable bags and latex gloves for volunteers.

b. Publicity.

- Volunteers are needed for publicity through local papers, the town website, and Facebook.

c. Giveaways.

- Green Earth Day shopping bags and seed packets from the Pollinator Park. Susan Brennan noted that seeds need to be processed, and about 250 small envelopes remain.

- The committee will work on the seed packets after the March Town Council meeting.

d. Informational Displays.

- Pollinator Garden Display with examples of plants in the garden.
- Composting display by DNREC, possibly using a purchased composter before placing it in the garden.
- Offshore Wind Display with Natalie Magdeburger.
- Rain Barrel display by Deborah Cowell and the Green Infrastructure working group.

e. Refreshments.

- Coffee from Surf Bagel, Hibiscus Lemonade from Deborah Cowell, possibly bagels or pastries. Vicki Carmean will oversee refreshments.

6. Old Business.

- a. None

7. New Business.

- a. Vicki Carmean shared that Fenwick Island was listed in Southern Living (Jan-Feb issue) as one of "The Quiet Resorts." [Escape to "The Quiet Resorts"](#) .
- b. Susan Brennan reconnected with Cheryl and another employee at Inland Bay and Nursery.
- They are organizing some type of program that includes different parks and gardens, and they would like to add our park in that.
  - Susan Brennan will follow up with them.
  - Parking concerns were raised, but possibly the Chamber of Commerce would be agreeable to allow parking. If it is during the off season, parking at the beach ends is available.

8. Date of the next meeting.

a. Next meeting will be March 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

9. Public Participation.

a. None.

10. Adjournment.

**a. Motion to adjourn at 9:52 a.m. on Susan Brennan/Joel Patten motion.**

***Motion passed unanimously.***