



The Town of Fenwick Island

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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES

January 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Janice Bortner (phone), Stu Rubenstein (zoom), Sharon Harris (zoom), and Deborah Cowell (zoom).

Other Participants: None

Staff: Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was brought to order by Deborah Cowell. A moment of silence was taken for the families and emergency services being provided in the Washington DC area for the mid-air collision the evening before. The group said the pledge of allegiance and began the meeting.

1. Review and Discussion of the meeting minutes. There were no official minutes as this is the first meeting following normal meeting protocols. Meetings are now recorded and official minutes will be provided from this point forward.
2. For Discussion and Possible Action.
 - a. Okie Property.
 - Review and update of ideas from last meeting. A review and update from prior meetings notes to reiterate highlights and review things discussed and addressed. Any items that had been acted on, such as an official survey of the property, were discussed. There is no requirement to have survey points at this time. Stu asked if we had names of landscapers yet and made a recommendation (Bunting Landscaping). We are currently making a list of professionals we know or have worked with our committee.
 - ❖ Action item (Debbie): It will be asked if Mike Locke would be able to put approximate corner point markers on the property to guide our work.
 - Park name. Park names were discussed and Janice suggested we talk to the Okie family, to date we have the following:
 - a. Okie Nature Walk
 - b. Okie Community Park, recommended by Stu

- Timeline. The group discussed a timeline that would be in phases. The mayor expressed having something in place by Memorial day and we suggested that a dedication be done by then with a plan in place. Further phases will be discussed and planned as we move through the project. We are just at the beginning planning phase.
- Request for possible funding. Request for funding or other funding opportunities was discussed and Stu volunteered to help. We will discuss further when we have a plan and some pricing but beginning to think about a fundraising is one idea. If we do grants, they usually have a matching component and Janice suggested we could use time donated to the project as part of our contributions, in addition to matching funds.
 - ❖ Action item (Janice): reach out to see what grants are available through our liaison, Ann.
- Next steps. Debbie and Janice did an exploratory outreach meeting with two subject matter experts that have participated in related Residential Concerns Committee meetings/events. Stephen Pryce Lea from the Delaware botanical gardens and Carol Anderson-Austra (Landscape architect). A set of meeting minutes from that meeting are attached. Stephen Pryce Lea will be doing the initial evaluation of the project for us to include pictures, findings, and results from soil samples to be done sometime in mid-February. Deb Cowell will do a second walk through with Stephen to review the findings and all members were invited to join on that walkthrough as well as inviting Mike Locke.

3. Old Business.

- a. Outreach to Taryn Davidson for Assistance. We have been unable to connect with Taryn Davidson but will continue trying as she discussed doing a tree planting and also having grant opportunities.

4. New Business.

- a. Consult with a Landscape Architect. Consult with an Architect – We did our exploratory meeting with the architect. Any official drawings would include incorporating findings by Stephen Pryce lea on the natural lighting, plant materials, paths and mindful of the ability for visibility into the park for safety reasons by FI police.

- ❖ Action Item (Debbie): Follow up with architect and ask them to provide a list of outcomes and costs if hired.

Sharon Harris asked if we had consulted with Landscapers and again, we are making a list but we won't reach out until we have a plan, based on the initial evaluation and a drawing from a landscape architects perspective. Debbie asked if she might be interested in reaching out to landscapers once we develop a plan. She said she would consider it.

5. Public Participation.

- a. None

6. Announcements.

- We will be holding bi-weekly meetings starting February 20th. Meeting dates are February 20th, March 6th, March 20th, April 3rd, April 17th, May 1st and May 15. These meetings will be to keep momentum

going to have something prepared by Memorial weekend and a plan for a phased approach of implementation.

- The next meeting will be February 20, 2025.

7. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. with a motion made by Stu and seconded by Sharron.

Attachment 1: Meeting minutes from exploratory meeting with experts.