



The Town of Fenwick Island

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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES

March 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Other Participants: None.

Staff: Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order at 9:04 a.m. The meeting was brought to order by Deborah. The group said the pledge of allegiance and began the meeting.

1. Review and Discussion of the meeting minutes. The minutes from the March 6, 2025 meeting were presented and Stu made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Janice. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. For Discussion and Possible Action.
 - a. Okie Property.
 - i. Recent activities on site
 - ❖ Access/paths cleared by Paul, Colleen, Susan and Natalie – a very big thank you to these members of FI and the council for the work they have done to clear paths into the property and removed trash from the Okie property. This allowed us to get into the site to have our meetings and planning sessions.
 - ❖ Site visit 3/14/2025 – meetings and activities – Walkthroughs were made with the Landscaper (Brother Nature Landscaping), the Landscape Architect (Carol Anderson-Austra), Natalie and an adjacent neighbor (Michele Rhonke). We had many discussions and did a walk-through and scoping for both professionals giving them information to submit their proposals for work to be done on the site and specific deliverables and costs.
 - ❖ Natalies meeting with Mr. Okie – Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve – Natalie met with Mr. Okie to confirm the proposed name for the property. Natalie to provide a historic report from her research that she will publish on the FI social media site.
 - ii. Updates for action items from last meeting:
 - ❖ *Action item (Debbie): set date for walkthrough – complete – March 14th*
 - ❖ *Action Item (Debbie): discuss clearing and access – complete*
 - iii. Budget for approval of FI Town Council:
 - ❖ Present Landscape Architect Proposal – provided an update after the site visit, used the first two deliverables on the budget as we feel it is important to have the overview diagram and her oversight in installing the rain garden.
 - ❖ Present Landscaper Proposal – provided after site visit – we reviewed both pages of his proposal.
 - ❖ Other items not on the other two proposals – added funding for plants needed for near term

- ❖ Prepare action form for recommended amount – We reviewed the budget request one page proposal – for a total of \$7,296.00. It includes the recommended pieces from both the Landscape Architect and the Landscaper Proposal. The budget was provided and that amount and text used to prepare an action form to be presented for the FI council meeting in April once this budget is approved through the residential concerns committee.

A question was asked by Stu about budget proposal items. Sharon asked questions about the timing of when the site should be open to visitors. It is currently open and we are not keeping people out of the site, but we do need to get the heavy trash out, which is why we are asking for funding. We had a great discussion of current site conditions of the site and help from experts that are knowledgeable. Janice talked about the pocket forest, grant opportunities and that the work on the site will be done in phases. She discussed the educational opportunities and our outreach to our experts. We discussed liability issues and perhaps getting some advice on that as well. We discussed possible issues with homeless people and animals living in the woods there. Janice has made many of the connections needed to get us this far and Deb thanked her for her leadership.

We talked to Stu about getting possible donations for additional items on the site. He would like to be more clear about what we need, and the gaps. One final thing we discussed was the need for a one-page site drawing and oversight from Carol. There were no further questions and everyone understood the budget proposal.

Motion: A motion was made by Janice that we take this proposal for the budget for the community nature preserve to the Council for approval, seconded by Sharon. Further discussion resulted in Stu asking that we modify the budget proposal to add a bullet for “other site work as required”. A vote was taken on the proposal submitted, approved unanimously. Stu made a motion to amend the proposal for items by the town council that site improvements as needed. Seconded by Sharon, unanimously approved.

3. Old Business. None.

4. New Business.

- Dedication event discussion (Fall 2025) – when the weather is not so hot!
 - Nature Preserve sign should be in place – Natalie spoke to Mr. Okie and he had a particular metal sign in mind versus a wooden sign. We will have to get information on what that looks like and Natalie said that it shouldn't be difficult to get this done through the town council.
 - Coordinate this with a tree planting (Taryn) – Taryn is willing to do a tree planting for us during the dedication.
 - Janice talked to Ann Reiley about her husband Tom making some wooden signs for the pathway beginning/ends. Tom does beautiful work and Janice would like to get his assistance. We thank him for anything he can do to help us.

5. Public Participation. None.

6. Announcements.

- The next meeting will be April 3, 2025. Stu and Sharon said that they would not be able to make that meeting so we will reschedule or cancel.

7. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m. with a motion made by Sharon and seconded by Stu.