



The Town of Fenwick Island

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RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

March 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Deborah Cowell (Zoom), George Stone (Zoom), Stu Rubenstein (Zoom), Janice Bortner (Zoom), Geri Verlaque, Sharon Harris, Cindy Kerns (Zoom)

Other Participants:

Staff: Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order at 10:01 am

1. Approval of the February 3, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve February 3, 2025 meeting minutes with a revision correcting Carol Anderson-Austra's name on a Stu Rubenstein/George Stone motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Possible Action.

- a. Green Infrastructure Working Group.

- Okie Nature Preserve Update.
 - ~ The Work Group met on 3/20/25.
 - ~ Paths accessible thanks to Paul and Colleen Wilson, Susan Brennan, and Natalie Magdeburger.
 - ~ Met with Brother Nature Landscaping and the Landscape Architect.
 - ~ Property name Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve, (to be presented to Town Council)
- Presentation Of Budget To Be Approved By Fenwick Island Town Council.
 - ~ Deborah Cowell presented the budget proposal with bids from Brother Nature Landscaping & Carol Anderson-Austra.

- ~ George Stone inquired about multiple bids—no requirement.
- ~ Sharon Harris asked about the rain garden design; Deborah Cowell explained location & function.
- ~ Geri Verlaque asked about signage & dedication event costs—to be presented later.
- ~ Stu Rubenstein suggested fundraising if necessary.

Motion to move the budget proposal to Town Council on a Stu Rubenstein/George Stone Motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Event To Dedicate The Site – Potential Dates.
 - ~ Fall event with a sign ceremony & tree planting (Taryn Davidson to assist).

3. Old Business

a. Update: Suggestions for Better Communications Within FL.

- Janice Bortner advised that Town Council believes current communication is sufficient (Facebook, website, Mayor's messages, digital sign).
- Janice Bortner advised that the Town Council felt that ordinance changes/hearings not be limited to summer.
- Janice Bortner stated she was advised about Cruisin' in Fenwick event, and she felt this would be an opportunity to share committee updates & website help.
- George Stone is disappointed that the Town Council feels the website is sufficient. He feels the website is not adequate, poor design, not user friendly reducing its effectiveness. He feels redesigned, it could be a true resource not a pretty picture. He felt it was very short sided.
- Deborah Cowell advised she was at the meeting and that Janice Bortner fought hard for this suggestion. It was discussed that there were a lot of web designers that worked on the design of the website.
- Stu Rubenstein stated there needs to be a better use of social media, the Town should be communicating outward and not requiring people to come to them. While the Message from the Mayor is a great way for her to communicate as Mayor, events in the town need to be coming from the town itself. It is strategy more than anything else.
- Janice Bortner has asked that George Stone and Stu Rubenstein to discuss with Natalie Magdeburger and herself these concerns about communication with the town and suggestions they may have.

- Geri Verlaque agrees with both George Stone and Stu Rubenstein. She stated it felt like it was a closed conversation at the meeting and felt the committee needed to show the Mayor what is missing. Felt like it was not a welcoming suggestion.
- Janice Bortner suggested that a working group be set up under the Residential Concerns Committee. Maybe Stu Rubenstein, George Stone and Geri Verlaque work on alternatives for the website so she can represent to the Town Council.

4. New Business

- Planning Commission – Committee Report (October-March) Updates Due.
 - Deborah Cowell shared the updated report, copies available upon request.
- Okie Property Safety Issues.
 - Janice Bortner and Deborah Cowell to consult with Natalie Magdeburger on going to the Town Solicitor on safety issues (trash pit, no trespassing signs, animal habitats).
 - Geri Verlaque advised on putting up signage. Janice Bortner stated that there is a sign Mr. Okie would like to have put up. Ann Riley's husband has volunteered to help with making signs as well.
- Janice Bortner stated the committee should work on ideas to present during the Cruisin' event on the 31st.
 - Perfect time to highlight Okie project & seek donations.
 - Clarification needed on event details (bicycle event, town event, or both?)—Geri Verlaque to contact Susan Brennan.

Stu Rubenstein left at 10:41 a.m.

5. Public Participation

- None

6. Future Meeting.

- April 14, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

7. Adjourn.

- Motion to adjourn at 10:56 on a George Stone/Geri Verlaque motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.