



The Town of Fenwick Island

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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall MINUTES

Members Present: Susan Brennan (Zoom), Jay Ryan (Zoom), Tim Leahy (Zoom), Tim Bergin (Zoom), Jack Armstrong (Zoom), Geri Verlaque, Andrew Emerson (Zoom)

Others Present: Brandon Walls (Zoom), Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab, Mike Locke

Flag salute and call to order at 10:04 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from March 11, 2025

Motion to approve March 11, 2025 minutes on a Tim Bergin/Tim Leahy motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Update From Tim Leahy and The Bayside Stormwater Management and Flood Protection Working Group.
 - a. BRIC Grant
 - The BRIC grant officially discontinued by the federal government—expected, but disappointing.
 - The shift to smaller demonstration projects was already underway.
 - The demonstration project will be at the end of Farmington Street as a test area, it was chosen due to the existing barriers and frequent flooding.
 - The team produced a design and met with Mike Locke who had the same ideas. Mike Locke agreed and felt it was under his department to maintain and has some supplies. No additional funding will be needed. Estimated start is May-June.

- Continue discussions with engineers even without an active contract.
- Jay Ryan advised that there was a reply email from DNREC regarding whether a permit was needed to adjust the Riprap at the end of Farmington Street. It is pretty clear that a permit is not needed as long as we are above the mean water line.
- Natalie Magdeburger stated an email from Phil Cane of DEMA also was sent out reiterating the decision officially.
- It is hopeful that in 2-3 years this will settle down and funds will flow back to the state.
- Tim Leahy proposed holding an annual meeting in late August.
- Susan Brennan suggested the meeting could be information coming from the FEMA/NFIP online seminar she took hosted by DNREC and FEMA on flood insurance and property preparedness.

Tim Leahy Left at 10:12 AM

- Tim Bergin responded that some key points may be hard for people to hear but necessary. He advised that the town needs to hire someone to attend all these meetings and seminars in order to keep ahead.
- Natalie Magdeburger agreed on the need for attendance and noted link between resiliency and wind farm discussions.
- Andrew Emerson stated that federal grants are drying up. Alternative funding is needed via local revenue, partners, or regional efforts (e.g., Lewes' Resiliency Fund, P3s).
- Natalie Magdeburger advised state cuts are likely and DNREC relies heavily on federal funds. Andrew Emerson agreed, other cities around the country are saying the same thing.
- Susan Brennan discussed Town committed \$100K match for BRIC; suggested using that money for starting projects and hiring engineers. Natalie Magdeburger agreed but advised in order to change ordinances to bulkhead heights, for instance, we need the scientific basis. Susan Brennan agreed.
- Natalie Magdeburger replied that property values continue to rise and RTT funding is strong and should use the funding for this.
- Andrew Emerson urged comprehensive strategy, enforce bulkhead rules, and explore soil berms over bulkheads, using dredged material on nearby lots.
- Natalie Magdeburger agreed and thought that bulkheads may trap water—pumping stations might be needed. Long-term planning and phased projects are essential.

- Andrew Emerson advised engineer's scope should define elevation/bulkhead standards. Incentives for older/multi-owner properties needed.

Meeting was stopped due to Zoom Bombing with inappropriate material being shared.

New Zoom Meeting started.

Geri Verlaque, Susan Brennan (Zoom), Tim Bergin (Zoom), Jay Ryan (Zoom), Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

- Susan Brennan advised the committee that they now have an idea of the direction they would like to proceed with the implementation of an engineer and getting guidelines for the bulkhead height, we can bring this back to the next meeting.
- Natalie Magdeburger asked that Susan Brennan present this to the town at the meeting in May, possibly with a cost for the next step.

3. Adjournment.

- a. Meeting Ended at 11:14 a.m. due to no quorum and more topics to discuss. New scheduled meeting for April 16, 2025 at 10:00 am.