



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Kevin Zipay, (Coast TV News)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab, Mike Locke

Flag salute and call to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from April 8, 2025

Motion to approve April 8, 2025 minutes on a Geri Verlaque/Tim Leahy motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Update From Tim Leahy and The Bayside Stormwater Management and Flood Protection Working Group.
 - Proposal raised to use part of approved BRIC grant funds to begin a concept design project.
 - Everyone agreed with the importance of further discussion and to identify priorities.
 - Tim Leahy contacted Larry Trout about a scaled-down project that maintains engineering quality.
 - Emphasis on moving forward and starting Plan B demonstration projects.
 - The Working Group meets next week to discuss new direction; Tim Leahy hopes to have more info from Larry Trout.

- Geri Verlaque asked for clarification. Tim Leahy explained shift from RFP to current priorities, and asking the engineers how they would prioritize what the most important work would be.
- Geri Verlaque emphasized careful spending to protect Fenwick.
- Geri Verlaque questions if Fenwick can coordinate with nearby towns to share information on flood resiliency efforts?
- Susan Brennan shared Andrew Emerson will lead the Resiliency Fund; Tim Leahy noted past limited collaboration issues but sees new opportunities (e.g., Lewes, South Bethany).
- Susan Brennan suggested SCAT is another place to look for assistance.
- Tim Bergin reminded the committee about Bethany's Emergency Replacement Fund since 2014, it is helpful but not sufficient. Their zoning map (shared with the committee) shows that it extends to the Assawoman Canal which is larger than expected. Their tax base is similar to Fenwick's. He is concerned with relying solely on volunteers and suggested finding a more efficient way to coordinate with other towns.
- Tim Leahy stated that Fenwick has three parallel efforts: Resiliency Fund (led by Andrew Emerson), design concepts, and code/ordinance updates.
- Susan noted the need to budget for legal fees tied to ordinance changes.

Motion to present to Town Council that the Infrastructure Committee is entertaining the option to use the town approved matching funds for ongoing concept design and ordinance updates on a Tim Bergin/Jack Armstrong motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Mike Locke Update on Back Flow Preventors, Drainage Maintenance, and Road Maintenance.
 - a. Replacement of backflow preventors were done on South Schultz (north side), Cannon Street (north side), Bayard Street Extended (north side), on Bayard Street, a pipe had to be cut and reset, then reinstalled the backflow (north side).
 - b. Pre-construction meeting for the street paving is on April 17th.
 - c. Public Works has been working on their spring list.
4. Discussion on Topics and Speakers to Consider Inviting for Educational Advancement.
 - a. Goal: Add another layer of education for the residents and property owners.

- Focus on raising awareness and providing practical information to support property improvements.
 - Suggested date is a Friday in August.
 - Tim Bergin suggested creating an agenda first, then reach out to speakers.
 - Topics to include engineering, insurance, and emergency preparedness.
 - Tim Leahy to contact Larry Trout or recommend a homeowner-focused engineer.
 - Tim Bergin to reach out to Danielle Swallow to speak on emergency information.
 - Susan Brennan to work on insurance.
5. Committee Housekeeping: If There is an Item You Would Like to Add to the Agenda, Please Email the Chair at Least One Week Prior to Scheduled Meeting.
 - a. To add items to the agenda, email Susan Brennan at least one week prior to the meeting.
 6. Old Business.
 - a. Consideration Regarding a Feasibility Study for the Creation of a Resiliency Fund.
 - Susan Brennan will follow up with Andrew Emerson regarding committee direction.
 7. New Business.
 8. Public Participation.
 9. Date of Next Meeting.
 - a. May 13, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
 10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 10:43 a.m. on a Geri Verlaque/Jack Armstrong motion.

Motion passed unanimously.