



The Town of Fenwick Island

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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES

April 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Other Participants: Natalie Magdeburger (zoom), Elizabeth Gallagher (zoom), Michael Kelleher, Kevin Zipay (Coastal News, zoom).

Staff: Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order at 9:02 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 20, 2025 meeting were presented and Janice made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Sharon. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. For Discussion and Possible Action.
 - a. Okie Property.
 - i. Recent activities on site
 - ❖ Site visits and walkthroughs – Deb did a walkthrough with Tripp from Brother Nature landscaping to review tasks. Tripp is currently cleaning out trash identified in his proposal. He will continue with next steps. Tripp was given a suggested soil mixture to put into the trash pit once it is cleared.
 - ii. Update on Budget approval from FI Town Council meeting April 4,
 - ❖ Our funding was approved, as submitted, at the last FI Council meeting to include Landscaping, Landscape Architect, Funding for soil samples (added by Natalie) and funding for rocks and plants for the rain garden. The rain garden is one aspect of green infrastructure we want to highlight.
 - iii. Update from Landscape architect
 - ❖ Carol is working on the overview diagram of the property to identify features, feature trees, etc. The drawing will showcase those features and entrance sites. Carol suggested a mix for the pit to include coarse sand with the soil mixture for good drainage. We will be discussing an implementation date for the rain garden. Looking at a proposed May date. Natalie suggested putting something on FACEBOOK to advertise that event to get volunteers for this learning event.
3. Old Business.

Deb has been in touch with Taryn Davidson, who put us in touch with someone from the University of Delaware to become a partner with the Master Naturalist program. They can help eradicate invasive species such as bamboo and the creeping euonymus. I have not had any success in getting in touch with him and will keep trying to reach out.

We have not come up with a firm date for the dedication of the property, but we first have to be able to get the sign ready. Sharon Harris is in charge of finding out information on a sign that is the style that Mr. Okie has in mind. Mr. Kelleher suggested checking with a company called Whithall for signs.

Sharon Harris gave her update on the sign. She checked with a company in Hanover. There are two companies that manufacture these types of signs within the United States. She has hard copies of catalogues and colors (two blues), along with background textures (three different types) to share with us after the meeting. She got a base charge for either cast bronze or cast aluminum. We can have many words in raised lettering on the sign, but size may have to be adjusted depending on how many words. The price, for example, (18 x 12) is in the neighborhood of \$1425; Aluminum would be \$800 for the same size. The state seal can be added and would be an additional charge of approximately \$300. Natalie suggested using the town seal versus the state seal. We would have to mount the sign on a pole. Natalie will be looking into where these signs can be made through a contact in Delaware. We all thanked Sharon for her research for the sign!

Carol, our landscape architect, is still looking at metal sign options from some sources in Baltimore. A question came up about a sign that was in the pollinator park, but those were smaller signs. Natalie will check with Colleen and Susan from the Environmental Committee. The sign that Mr. Okie wanted is the style sign that he has on his other property.

4. New Business.

- Deb visited the Marion Okie Preserve in Long Neck just to see how they have their set up when first approaching the property. They have a beautiful property right on the Indian River.
- Wooden Signs for inside the preserve – Deb had not been able to get together with Tom but will follow up for the next meeting.
- Potential fund raising (i.e. future plant material, wood for signs) – Stu suggested that we make sure we have a list of potential items that we are raising funds for versus just a call for donations. Looking for a figure of what we believe the demand will be. Janice talked about having a way for people to donate time/money and perhaps have a sign up list. Janice said that if we have targeted items (perhaps the sign), that we could advertise those items and have people donate, that this would be more effective. Stu agreed with this approach. Deb asked about FI Town Council paying for the sign and Natalie said that, yes, FI can help fund the sign and we can also advertise for donations. Beth Galliger asked about donated “bricks” for a walkway and also asked how we would acknowledge people who donate. We can discuss how to acknowledge people, but Janice brought up a great idea to have that list on a website or QR code to find out anyone who helped donate. We want to keep this property more natural and not post signs of donors like is currently in the pollinator park.
- We discussed having a web page dedicated to the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve. The donation page could be attached to this acknowledging people who gave time/funding and an educational tool on who to contact for various organizations that have shared their expertise. We could also have a copy of the drawing from Carol on the site as well. Any linked sites would be established sites for educational information. Natalie said we could add to the FI website with photographs, etc. and load to the website. Erin and Kathy are the web page designers to give information to build that page. Wooden signs with leucite or plexiglass coverings will be used to post information and QR codes. Janice wants to make sure we acknowledge the organizations that have been supporting us as well. FI can set up a separate account for all donations to the preserve. Janice would like for us to have a sign up sheets for our future FI events.
- Introduce FI resident volunteers – Elizabeth “Beth” Galliger from E. Bayard Street and Michael Kelleher from Indian St. We did discuss parking/walking to the park! Janice suggested putting a bicycle rack on the property. We may need to “hash-mark” area where cars park and we cannot see an entrance in. We will bring this to the attention of the FI Town Council, a point for future discussion.

5. Public Participation. None.

6. Announcements.
 - The next meeting will be May 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
 - Earth Day celebration on 4-25-2025 – come see us, we will be having a rain barrel demo and information on Green Infrastructure.
7. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m. with a motion made by Deb and seconded by Sharon.