



The Town of Fenwick Island

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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES

May 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Other Participants: Natalie Magdeburger (zoom), Susan Brennan (zoom), John Nason (zoom).

Staff: Kathy Grab

Flag Salute & Call to Order at 9:05 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 April 17, 2025 meeting were presented but we did not have a quorum until later in the meeting. At a later point in the meeting Deb made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sharon. The motion passed unanimously.
2. For Discussion and Possible Action.
 - a. Okie Property.
 - i. Recent activities on site
 - ❖ Update on work being done by Brother Nature Landscaping – work proceeding nicely and about 90-95% complete.
 - ❖ Debbie and husband checked the site after a heavy rain and the rain garden area seems to be working nicely. We did a water saturation test with Tripp and the landscape architect. The area is draining well and not holding water so no perceived mosquito issue.
 - ❖ Soil Samples received and very acidic and deficient in nutrients – reports need more review.
 - ii. Update from Landscape architect
 - ❖ Carol delivered a copy of version 2 of the diagram at the last council meeting. It was well received, and we had some comments and changes we will apply based on those comments. Looking to do the rain garden installation on May 23rd
 - iii. Money donated by John Nason to the preserve towards the sign being proposed.
 - iv. Sent message to the mayor on concerns during work that week on the preserve. We want to ensure safety on the preserve and signs to protect private property and what hours people should be in the park (dawn to dusk only).
 - v. Motions/other discussion:
 - ❖ Deb made a motion to have Tom Bouchelle make wooden signs for the preserve for privacy and the hours. Janice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. I will check to see if we need funding for the wood to make the signs.
 - ❖ Deb made a motion to block off the second parking space from the east to be blocked off for people to access the park through that location. The other entrance is further back and will be a great place

to locate the new preserve sign. Janice seconded the motion. Sharon thought it was a good idea. The vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

- ❖ Janice would like to see a bicycle rack by the park entrance and Deb said we have a nice set-back to put a rack but there are other things that need to be moved out first.
- ❖ Our group is supposed to be a steward of the park (focusing on phase 1) to get the park open and safe and the trees are being looked after. We are not the owner, that's the town of Fenwick and everything needs to go back to the town council. We do not have the authority.
- ❖ Revisit having a survey done on property line for everyone's sake. Deb made a motion to have a survey done on the property line along the 200 foot length. Sharon seconded the motion. Janice agreed and said the current boundary is in question. A vote was taken and unanimous approved.
- ❖ All of these items will be forwarded through the Residential Concerns Committee meeting to be approved by the FI town council.
- ❖ Carol made a list of rain garden plants.

3. Old Business.

We participated in the Earth Day event (Janice, Carol Anderson-Austra and Deb). We had a small display with a rain barrel and talked about our rain garden installation. Carol was there with the site drawing and we talked about it with many people who wanted to see what we were doing with the preserve and volunteered to participate.

Susan and Colleen donated a new red cedar seedling to be planted in the preserve.

4. New Business.

- Janice thanked Deb for all the work being done and to David Cowell who is donating rocks for the rain garden. She also thanked Carol (landscape architect) for all of the hard work and hours dedicated to visiting and planning the site.
- Deb acknowledged our whole team and a thank you to everyone who has participated. Tripp has been a great asset as well as town hall employees who have come out to help.
- Janice raised to our attention the drawing from Carol which has already been of help when people talking about features within the preserve.
- Fenwick Nurtures Nature – we were going to do a joint event again with Dark Skies, but they will do their own and we will look for expert speakers. The event will be July 17 at 1:00. One of the speakers will potentially be Douglas Tallamy. Janice heard of him through Sussex Preservation Coalition. Tallamy could cover many topics that are of interest to the town like pollinators, native plants, etc. Janice has done outreach to get him to come speak. Potentially the forestry service or others may be great speakers. Deb brought up the master naturalist program coordinator and hopefully they could come speak. We will again focus on green infrastructure and the pollinator garden that has been such a great hit from the environmental committee.
- Natalie gave me information that she has a link to someone who could make the sign for the Okie Property. We have no further information at this time.
- We are moving at a good clip considering we meet every two weeks.
- Would like to gather content for a specific web page for the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve. We need to collect peoples' name who have donated time/talent, etc. This would be the place to recognize people who have contributed. The site could also contain educational information about the rain garden, etc. Deb will start putting information together with pictured, etc. and get that information to Erin and Kathy. Sharon said she will help with anything she can.

5. Public Participation.

- Deb invited John Nason to give an introduction and speak. He joined us remotely. He was complimentary and thanked our Green Infrastructure Working Group for all the work being done. He heard about the project from Natalie and he is so happy about this amazing contribution from the Okie Family. He thinks there are a number of people who are ready, willing and able to contribute to the success of this project.

6. Announcements.
 - The next meeting will be May 15, 2025 at 10:00a.m. in a joint meeting with Residential Concerns Committee.
7. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. with a motion made by Deb and seconded by Sharon.