



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

BUSINESS CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

Agenda

Members Present: Kurt Zanelotti (via Zoom), Betsy Mitchell, Heather Goodrich, Matt Patton (via Zoom), Scott Mumford, Lucy Wilder, Jim Simpson (via Zoom), Joe Brzostowski

Others Present: Erin Ellinger, Kerin Magil (via Zoom), Tim Collins, Lois Twilley (via Zoom), Edward Kramer

Flag Salute and Call to Order 9:02 a.m.

Approval of April 1, 2025, Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025, meeting.

Moved by: Scott Mumford

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously

Old Business

- **Review of parking legislation proposal that was sent to the council.**

Scott Mumford stated that the committee has strong momentum with the "Business Helping Business" parking initiative, which has council support. He noted that current bylaws have restrict financial transactions between businesses for parking use, but the Charter & Ordinance (C&O) Committee will be working on an ordinance change to allow such arrangements.

Some businesses face challenges due to restricted parking, limiting their participation in the plan. Scott remarked that the local business landscape is evolving positively. The committee presented the idea of offering half-price seasonal parking passes for employees to the council. He emphasized that employees should be able to park in any available space, and the proposed designated employee parking areas are ineffective. He proposed offering reduced-rate parking passes for business owners, alongside the existing plan.

Joe Brzostowski mentioned that several businesses are already sharing parking where possible. Kurt Zanelotti cautioned that marking new parking spaces may result in pushback and emphasized that the police should not be responsible for enforcing the business-to-business parking plan. Scott said the town needs to show flexibility during the busy season and suggested eliminating any beachfront parking concepts, keeping that area reserved for residents and property owners only.



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The overarching idea is to offer discounted street parking permits to business owners, allowing their employees to park on the street rather than in lots, leaving more room for patrons. Edward Kramer supported this approach, viewing it as a town investment that could help retain patrons and increase revenue. He recommended including permit conditions in the new ordinance, such as revocation for misuse and specifying it is for employees only. He also noted past instances where police told businesses not to allow after-hours parking on their lots.

Tim Collins stressed that the town should take tangible steps to support the business community. He observed a shift in the business environment, with redevelopment occurring, and highlighted employee parking as the top concern. He questioned if parking restrictions on residential streets from 4–10 p.m. are necessary, pointing out that commercial lots are already preferred. He encouraged the council to take a proactive stance and provide relief for businesses, referencing a past committee where high participation yielded no results. He said a more aggressive town approach is now needed.

Scott reiterated that police should not have to enforce parking rules on private commercial lots. Joe noted the Chamber of Commerce option is not viable. Kurt encouraged committee members to email their thoughts to the council ahead of the upcoming meeting.

Scott reminded everyone that as a resort town, businesses operate within a narrow peak season. He suggested \$450 as a fair permit price, benefiting both the town and business owners. Kurt will share more details about allowing parking on private lots. Tim added that a permit system would also promote more cooperative conversations between neighboring businesses and help address conflicts.

Motion: To establish a \$450 fee for a seasonal parking pass available to any business owner within the incorporated limits of Fenwick

Moved by: Scott Mumford

Seconded by: Kurt Zanelotti

Result: Motion passed unanimously

- **Fenwick Bike Event May 31, 2025. Review of progress with Lucy Wilder, Co-chair.**

Lucy Wilder noted that this event will serve as a bonding experience for the community. Surf Bagels is donating bagels, and High Tide Coffee and Bowls is contributing coffee. Joe offered to provide water bottles. Lucy will organize the tables at the Town Hall and will coordinate with Erin for setting up on the day of the event.

- **Shop Fenwick First Initiative. Pending Council Budget action.**

A motion was made to approve \$500 for the Fenwick Island business QR code initiative. Council raised concerns regarding who would manage the QR code and the associated website. The



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motion did not receive a second, pending additional information. Kurt noted that the proposal would need to be scaled back for council approval and will speak with Erin to determine how to move the idea forward.

New Business

None

Public Participation

None

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Kurt encouraged every to attend the next town council meeting on May 23rd.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Moved by: Scott Mumford

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously