



The Town of Fenwick Island

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www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Colleen Wilson, Liz Lear, Vicki Carmean, Susan Brennan (Zoom), Pam Pridgeon (Zoom),

Other Participants: Dante Liberatore

Staff Participants: Kathy Grab

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of August 13, 2025.

Motion to approve the Minutes of August 13, 2025 Meeting on a Liz Lear/Susan Brennan motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

2. Update on Town Parks.

- a. Pollinator Park.

- Positive summer with many visitors enjoying the park.
- Two successful Barefoot Gardener Storytelling Fairs, including one with author Cindy Deakyne that drew many families.
- The Summer Soirée was also well attended.
- Committee discussed using the park for more events and suggested relocating the doggy bag container across the street to reduce odors.
- Next maintenance day for the park to be end of October, Colleen Wilson will send out a notice to the Barefoot Gardeners for volunteers.
- Next spring the compost bin can be emptied and used in the garden beds.
- Over the winter months, the committee needs to think about new plants to put in the park if that is the route they decide to take.
- Susan Brennan agreed and advised that the beds need to be amended, and leaf grow added along with mulch to keep in the moisture.
- Vicki Carmean noted that from the lecture on caterpillars and ecosystems, she suggests adding plants like Virginia Creeper to the park to support wildlife. Susan Brennan suggested doing research over the winter.

b. Faucett-Okie Nature Preserve.

- There are now three benches within the park.
- Very pretty and peaceful.
- Lots of possibility in there.
- The sign has been ordered.
- Colleen Wilson raised reclaiming town property currently used by a neighbor for trash cans and a path, noting it is also the planned spot for the park sign. Vicki Carmean suggested addressing it with the mayor. The group agreed this could be done when the sign is installed.
- Discussion of realigning parking spaces to better define the park entrance and improve access.
- Colleen Wilson suggested the feather fan like the Pollinator Park would work well at the entrance as well.
- Vicki Carmean suggested vines. Suggestions of honeysuckle or trumpet vines. Having an arch at the entrance as well. Susan Brennan questioned whether there is a way to make a natural arch at the entrance.
- Susan Brennan shared a natural fencing option that they could use to put bamboo and sticks that were picked up.
- Research is needed for plants that thrive in shady areas.
- Grant for a pocket forest was awarded, Susan Brennan and Colleen Wilson will participate in the training sessions.
- Susan Brennan will bring back information from the first training session to the next meeting.

3. Planning for Additional Town Owned Areas.

a. Sidewalk Barriers.

- Vicki Carmean provided background on the town-owned 7-foot sidewalk strip along Coastal Highway, explaining the decision to place sidewalks next to parking lots with a 2-foot barrier for safety.
- Past efforts included landscaping with hardy plants and large rocks, but maintenance has lapsed.
- Colleen Wilson suggested the committee refocus on this project.
- Dante Liberatore proposed a business sponsorship model where property owners maintain the plantings to beautify the area.

- More discussion during the winter months, a timeline needs to be set up at the next meeting.
 - Vicki Carmean emphasizes not waiting until the last minute.
- b. Street Ends.
- Susan Brennan advised it is too early to discuss. Colleen Wilson stated it would be a great collaboration.
 - Vicki Carmean suggested the kayak entrance behind Town Hall as another project.
4. Offshore Wind Update.
- a. Colleen Wilson advised the outlook appears positive for opponents, as several projects, including U.S. Wind, may be shut down. Nothing is final yet, but signs are encouraging.
5. Old Business.
- a. Little Library was brought to Town Council.
- The topic was tabled.
- b. Coastal Cleanup was Saturday, September 13th.
- c. Barefoot Gardeners Flower Show will be on Monday, October 13th from 1-4 p.m. at the Columbus Hall in Ocean City.
6. New Business.
- a. Liz Lear noted a new house north Fenwick is being built and required by DelDOT to add a sidewalk.
- Vicki Carmean explained this is mandated by ordinance.
- b. Next meeting the committee needs to work on a timeline for projects.
- c. Saturday, October 25th, to be booked for Pollinator Park clean up.
7. Public Participation.
- a. Dante Liberatore asked about Bulkheads and what requirements he needs to follow.
- He was advised that the Infrastructure Committee was the committee to reach out to. Susan Brennan asked that her cell phone number be given to Dante Liberatore to reach out to her.
8. Date of the next meeting.
- a. October 8 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- Change of meeting date to October 16th at 9:00 a.m.
9. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 9:59 a.m. on a Vicki Carmean/Liz Lear motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.