



The Town of Fenwick Island

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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Jack Armstrong (Zoom), Jon Miller (Zoom), Geri Verlaque (Zoom), Vicki Carmean (Zoom), Jay Ryan (Zoom), Tim Leahy (Zoom), Tim Bergin (Zoom), Scott Negley (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom)

Others Present: Kerin Magill (Zoom), Ann Riley (Zoom), Larry Trout (Zoom), Shellie DeMoss (Zoom)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab, Mike Locke

Flag salute and call to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from September 9, 2025.

Motion to approve September 9, 2025, minutes on a Jack Armstrong/ Geri Verlaque motion.

Vicki Carmean abstained. Motion passed.

2. Street Maintenance 2025-26.

- a. AECOM's 10-year street plan from 2022 continues to guide work.
 - This year's paving is complete; next year's plan and budget are in progress.

3. Update on Straughan Environmental.

- a. Tim Leahy background information for the new members.
 - Straughan Engineering conducting Flood Resilience Planning Study (1-year project, 4-8 identified projects).
 - They have updated baseline conditions and mapping.
 - Bay side projects are being identified, and review continues.
 - Straughan will present their findings and set up the next steps for the committee.
- b. Straughan Engineering Presentation – Flood Resilience Planning Study by Larry Trout and Shellie DeMoss.

- Larry Trout and Shellie DeMoss of Straughan Engineering presented an overview of the Flood Resilience Planning Study
- [Fenwick Island Flood Resilience Planning Study](#)
- Jon Miller asked whether raising road elevations is being considered. Larry Trout said it will be evaluated but noted that building height ordinances tied to road crowns would need review. He added that raising entire roads could obstruct drainage for properties not yet elevated.
- Jay Ryan questioned the accuracy of data from the 2017 report. Larry Trout confirmed that Straughan will reassess that data. Jay Ryan noted that Tim Bergin had collected monitoring data from Madison Avenue and will share it with the team.
- Scott Negley asked about a project timeline. Tim Leahy will provide project details to Scott Negley and Vicki Carmean.
- Tim Bergin mentioned earlier coordination with DelDOT, including a prior proposal to raise Route 1 and install flood gates, and asked whether there was any connection to the Town's current planning. Larry Trout said that plan primarily involved a flood wall along the west side of Route 1, and Susan Brennan confirmed this. Larry Trout explained that while DelDOT's previous coastal infrastructure work informs the current study, large-scale flood walls are not effective for Fenwick Island's bayside. Instead, the focus will be on cost-effective, low-maintenance, and grant-eligible green infrastructure solutions.
- Susan Brennan added that she and Colleen Wilson are currently working with the Center for the Inland Bays on a Green Infrastructure Grant to support related shoreline projects.
- Geri Verlaque asked how the earlier Route 1 sidewalk project might be affected by current conditions and costs. Larry Trout said combining stormwater improvements with the sidewalk project could reduce costs and create shared benefits.
- Tim Leahy will follow up with DelDOT regarding the seawall and sidewalk status and share findings with Straughan Engineering..

4. Farmington Street Project Update.

- a. Sandbags filled; awaiting survey and easement completion.
 - Surveyors engaged; construction expected next month.
 - Additional easements may be required for future work.

5. Old Business.

- a. None

6. New Business.

- a. None

7. Public Participation.

- a. Ann Riley questioned the effectiveness of perforated pipes given high groundwater levels and asked whether they should remain in the maintenance schedule. Mike Locke said inspections should continue, as some may still function. Ann also suggested coordinating projects with

homeowners to reduce costs and requested that Straughan provide recommended bulkhead heights so residents can rebuild confidently without future ordinance changes.

- Jon Miller and Susan Brennan agreed on the importance of establishing clear guidelines, noting that bulkhead and elevation standards are being reviewed as part of the ongoing study.
 - Geri Verlaque asked about existing bay-side building code requirements for pilings; Jon Miller confirmed that elevation codes exist and will be re-evaluated Miller agreed, stating it is important to get the guidelines established. Susan Brennan agreed and advised it is on the list.
 - Ann expressed concern about waiting 18 months for the full study before implementing code updates. Jon Miller emphasized that scientific data and the study's findings are needed to support any changes. Jay Ryan felt sufficient data may already exist, while Ann maintained that inaction could be a disservice to residents. Susan Brennan added that potential adjustments—such as raising road crowns—must be carefully reviewed since those measurements determine allowable building heights.
 - Ann Riley still feels that it is a disservice not to change the code and not force residents to raise their lots. Ann Riley understands that this is a big picture situation.
 - Susan Brennan brought up that it is being reviewed to raise the crown of the road, but the crown of the road is what is used to measure the height of the house. Patience is needed to get the information back so they can move forward with it.
- b. Geri Verlaque mentioned public comments on social media regarding the Farmington Street project and the perception that other streets are being overlooked. Susan Brennan clarified that Farmington serves as a demonstration model designed by Jay Ryan, which can be replicated by residents if desired.
8. Date of Next Meeting.
- a. November 11 is a holiday. Potential new dates: Nov 4 or 18.
- For Discussion: Next Meeting Date to be Either Tuesday, November 4th at 10:00 a.m. or Tuesday, November 18th at 10:00 a.m.
 - November 4th is Election Day.
 - Susan Brennan and Kathy Grab to confirm final date.

9. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 12:02 a.m. on a Vicki Carmean/Scott Negley motion.

Motion passed unanimously.