



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

**Members Present:** Vicki Carmean, Colleen Wilson, Liz Lear, Lynn Zimmers, Stu Rubenstein (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom)

**Other Participants:** Lois Twilley (Zoom), Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

**Staff Participants:** Kathy Grab.

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order 9:02a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2025.

**Motion: Approve the Minutes of November 12, 2025.**

**Moved by: Vicki Carmean**

**Seconded by: Liz Lear**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

2. Town Parks' Update and Planning.

- a. Pollinator Park.

- The park has been dormant for the last few months.
- Spring plans include soil amendment, weeding, and plant replacement as needed. Involvement of the Barefoot Gardeners, opening of the park, and a summer event.
- Colleen Wilson will ask Public Works to pick up ~20 bags of soil week of March 23.
- A workday for weeding is needed, and it will be Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>, Colleen Wilson will reach out to the Barefoot Gardeners for Volunteers. Susan Brennan will review the park and bring her suggestions to the February meeting.
- Colleen Wilson asked if the committee would like to have a community event in the Pollinator Park. Committee agreed and June 27<sup>th</sup> was chosen.

b. Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve.

- Committee discussed recognizing Paul Wilson for significant volunteer work at the preserve.
- Updates included trail creation, invasive species removal, and progress on natural fencing.
- The Center for Inland Bays grant money will be coming in soon, 65 plants including a few trees will be delivered in April.
- The committee will combine Earth Day planting day on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Center for Inland Bays to assist with auger and mulch; volunteers to assist with planting.
- Susan Brennan advised that a planting plan was submitted for the pocket forest project. 65 plants and a few trees will be dispersed between the two entrances, trees placed going in on the backside.
- Survey of property pending; Town has surveyor under contract.
- Susan Brennan will connect with the surveyor and Center for Inland Bays for updates.
- Colleen Wilson would like to see if the committee could have water set up at the preserve to water the plants after planting.
- Colleen Wilson advised that there is a new sign and they need to pick a date to have the opening event for the Preserve and Mr. Okie. The tentative date is May 23<sup>rd</sup> the time to be determined.
- Colleen Wilson advised that Paul Wilson had been in Bethany and area and discussed reusing pilings to create a natural fence concept, similar to the stick "bird's nest" feature at the Delaware Botanic Gardens. The idea could include pilings used as seating to create a small outdoor classroom or gathering space.
- Colleen also noted that Lois Twilley of the Student Planning Commission wrote to the group suggesting the preserve be designated as an arboretum.
- Lois Twilley discussed pursuing arboretum designation, noting the process appears free and straightforward and that the site would qualify as a Level 1 arboretum with identification of at least 25 trees/shrubs and one annual public educational activity.
- She plans to speak with Professor Brent Zaprowski of Salisbury University, who led a similar effort, and will gather more information.
- The committee agreed the idea was favorable and encouraged further research.
- Stu Rubenstein shared the general process from the NARBNET, Kathy Grab will email it to the committee.
- Colleen Wilson will connect with the Barefoot Gardeners to invite them to be a part of the project as well.

c. Highway Sidewalk Plantings.

- Two areas recently cleaned (Seaside Country Store and Our Harvest).

- Committee discussed low-maintenance, native plantings to improve safety and screen parked cars. Suggestions including Mexican petunias, Muhly grass, Guara, verbena, hardy hibiscus, and other native grasses. Emphasis on not obstructing crosswalk sightlines.
  - Colleen stressed the importance of watering and noted donated gator bags, suggesting Public Works assist with installation.
  - Susan Brennan will research plant options with the Center for Inland Bays, review medians and sidewalks on her next visit, and coordinate with Public Works on expanding native plantings in the Town's gardens.
  - Further discussion is planned for February.
3. Create Timeline of Winter/Spring Activities.
- a. Colleen Wilson is maintaining a running activity timeline.
4. Old Business.
- a. Earth Day 2026 – Celebrating on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Plantings to occur at Faucett-Okie Preserve.
  - Trash pickup on the same day.
  - Colleen Wilson suggested asking for volunteers on the Town's website and Facebook. Looking for 10 volunteers.
  - Further planning to continue in February.
- b. Offshore Wind Update.
- Colleen Wilson reported attending an excellent, standing-room-only panel discussion on the current status of offshore wind in the region, organized by Rick Meehan and his group.
  - Natalie Magdeburger provided legal context and provided an update on event.
  - Speakers discussed the high cost, ongoing permitting and litigation. Radar interference, and significant impacts top commercial fishing, seafood access, tourism, and the local economy.
  - Environmental documentation described as outdated and incomplete.
  - There are multiple lawsuits still active.
  - There was strong public opposition, and it was emphasized that continued engagement is necessary.

Stu Rubenstein left at 10:03 am.

- c. DNREC Grass Planting
- Scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
  - Colleen Wilson requested behalf of Fenwick Island to be included in the planting this year as the dunes are bare.
  - Registration expected to open late January/early February.

5. New Business.

a. DNREC Cigarette Receptacles.

- Colleen Wilson reported that DNREC contacted Natalie Magdeburger about putting up a collection bins for cigarette butts for the beach areas. The Town would need to perform regular maintenance, emptying the bins and shipping the collected cigarette butts to Terracycle to be recycled.
- Committee discussed quantity and location. Two receptacles will be located at Town Hall and the corner of Bunting and Bayard.

6. Public Participation.

a. None.

7. Date of the next meeting.

a. February 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

8. Adjournment.

**Motion: To Adjourn.**

**Moved by: Vicki Carmean**

**Seconded by: Liz Lear**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**