



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Others Present:

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

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

1. Approval of prior minutes from January 13, 2026.

Motion: Approve the minutes of January 13, 2026, as amended to revise the fifth bullet under Item 2a to read: Road elevations, berms, bulkhead elevations, bioretention, and living shorelines are all currently being reviewed as a solution that could address the wave action in the northern and northwestern areas of the bayside directly facing large open areas of Assawoman Bay. Reef systems around Seal Island are another mitigation under study.

Moved by: Jack Armstrong

Seconded by: Tim Bergin

Motion Passed Unanimously.

2. Straughan Environmental Update.

- a. Tim Leahy Updates.

- Tim Leahy provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan and infrastructure components, noting the Infrastructure Committee working group met in January and reviewed the December presentation.
- He reported that Larry Trout submitted responses to the committee's questions and an updated Straughan Environmental presentation, which will be distributed to members for review.
- Tim Leahy presented the updated PowerPoint from Straughan Environmental. [02-09-2026 FI Status Update](#) He reported refinements to the tidal datum using USGS gauge data at Madison Street and noted the study divides the town into 21 segments that have now been evaluated using a scoring matrix.

- The working group will need to compare the prior and updated information. Straughan Environmental is recommending a target bulkhead elevation of approximately 3.7–4.0 feet and is planning conditions through 2050.
- Vicki Carmean asked if the committee is now able to move forward and bring this to the Council.
- The committee held a general discussion regarding the proposed plan of action.
- The Committee requested additional supporting documentation from Straughan Environmental for inclusion in the Council packet.

Motion: Bring to Council the recommendation of 3.7 feet elevation, along with information on how the number came to be, and to include supplemental information.

Moved by: Tim Bergin

Seconded by: Vicki Carmean

Motion failed (tie vote).

- Susan Brennan suggested bringing to council the information provided by Straughan Environmental for their review.
- The Committee discussed whether sufficient supporting documentation had been provided to present the recommendation to Council.
- Vicki Carmean advised that after the Council reviews it, the item goes to the Charter & Ordinance Committee for final discussion and decision, there is flexibility during the review, the Committee should not worry about minor measurement differences.

Amended Motion: Bring to Town Council a recommendation for their discussion of the flood vulnerability evaluation study which includes the delineated barriers to achieve a target elevation of 3.7 ft NAV88 by 2050 for Town and private responsibility.

Moved by: Vicki Carmean

Seconded by: Tim Leahy

Motion approved. Opposed: Jay Ryan.

- Tim Leahy will go ahead and request more details in preparation for the Council meeting.
- Tim Leahy shared the updated findings from Straughan Environmental.

Vicki Carmean left at 11:28 a.m.

- The data provides guidance for potential projects using a decision matrix for the Town's 21 segments.
- The matrix evaluates three factors: social vulnerability (risk to people/structures), asset vulnerability (risk to infrastructure such as roads/utilities), and actionability/feasibility (ability to implement improvements, including public property opportunities).

- The presentation will be distributed to the full Committee.
 - Tim Leahy reviewed scoring categories (social vulnerability, asset vulnerability, actionability) and weighted values (20% / 50% / 30%). Matrix ranked priority areas; top four: South Schultz, North Schultz, West Dagsboro, and Madison.
 - Goal is to narrow 8 potential projects to 4, and then 2 projects ready for engineering, funding, and construction by late summer/fall.
 - The Committee will review the information further prior to public presentation.
 - Susan Brennan noted the information is valuable and will be useful for the future. She requests those that have questions and are not participating in the working group to ask them before the 19th meeting.
3. Committee Working Group Update.
- a. Tim Leahy
 - Tim Leahy provided updates within the Straughan Environmental Updates.
4. Street Maintenance 2025-26 Update.
- a. Susan Brennan provided update.
 - Susan Brennan has reviewed 10-year street maintenance plan and noted overlap with Straughan recommendations (e.g., Madison Avenue drainage/height issues). She suggests deferring this year's street maintenance and carrying funds into next year to align with the project priorities.
 - Jon Miller questioned whether funds can be redirected to higher priority items such as street ends for example and was advised that flexibility may be possible. The town will have engineering designs and clearer priorities for the street projects.

Motion: To table street maintenance for this year based on our current knowledge.

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Jon Miller

Motion Passed Unanimously.

5. Farmington Street Project Update
- a. Mike Locke Updated Committee
 - He advised that the berm, sandbags, plastic, riprap, and preparatory work is completed and awaiting a high-tide event for evaluation.
 - Basin near the berm excavated, relined, and walled to prevent gravel/debris clogging (similar improvements successful on James Street).
 - Additional work planned to modify basins/outfall piping to improve water storage and reduce debris blockages; work may begin this week.
 - Jay Ryan complimented the work on the berm, noting it looks great based on photos.

6. Old Business.
 - a. None.
7. New Business.
 - a. Delaware RASCL (Resilient and Sustainable Communities League) Summit [2026 Summit | Delaware RASCL](#) March 5, 2026, 9:00 AM DEL ONE Conference Center, Dover, DE.
 - Susan Brennan advised that she is unable to attend and offered that anyone on the committee who would like to attend, the Town will pay for them. Please let her know as soon as possible.
 - b. MARACOOS [Front Page - MARACOOS](#) (Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System). MARACOOS is a regional association of partners that collect unique ocean and coastal data that is transformed into information products that support jobs, the economy, safety, and well-being for the more than 78 million people living, visiting, and working in the Mid-Atlantic region.
 - Danielle Swallow contacted the Town regarding participation in the MARACOOS program. She expressed interest on behalf of Fenwick Island.
 - Larry Trout advised that due to the existing gauge at Madison, he is recommends considering a monitoring location on the northern/western side of Town.
 - Tim Bergin has connected with Dr. Canty of University of Maryland, and he would like to have a discussion with Larry Trout. Susan Brennan has made Larry Trout aware of this discussion and is amenable.
8. Public Participation.
 - a. None.
9. Date of Next Meeting.
 - a. March 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment.

Motion: Adjourn at 11:49 a.m.

Moved by: Tim Bergin

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Motion Passed Unanimously.