The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409
302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax
www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

BEACH COMMITTEE MEETING
January 2, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
Town Hall
Minutes

Members Present: Jacque Napolitano, Kelly Rymer, Pam Pridgeon, Anne Hodges, Kurt Zanelotti (via Zoom), Sharon Harris

Others Present: Erin Ellinger

Welcome

1. Approval of minutes from November 7, 2025, meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 7, 2025, meeting
Moved by: Anne Hodges
Seconded by: Pam Pridgeon
Result: Motion passed unanimously

2. Fenwick Flicks

Dates: June 19, July 17, and August 14, with a classic movie night planned for August 21. The movie title will be determined in early 2026, subject to licensing availability.

3. Fenwick Freeze

The event was successful despite extremely cold conditions. Cash proceeds totaled approximately $2,000. T-shirt costs were $1,891, and a $500 donation will be made to EMS. Credit card payments will be totaled the following week. The event is intended as a community outreach activity rather than a profit-generating fundraiser.

Event Review and Areas for Improvement:

Approximately 150 participants took part in the plunge. The quantity of T-shirts ordered was appropriate; however, a small number of size small shirts remained. The committee agreed to order fewer smalls in the future and increase quantities of XL and 2XL, with the possible addition of some 3XL shirts. Jacque expressed a desire to ensure all shirts sell out in future years.

Thirty-gallon clear storage totes were purchased for T-shirt storage and proved to be very helpful. iPads and Square payment processing worked well. The committee recommended that a staff member with technical expertise be present on the morning of the event to assist with setting up and ensuring the payment system is functioning properly.

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Jacque thanked Town staff for their assistance, as well as the Police Chief and Police Department for their presence and support during the event.

Several logistical improvements were discussed. Weights are needed for the cash box due to windy beach conditions, and a bank bag is needed for cash overflow storage. Clipboards are needed for registration forms. It was noted that some participants may have plunged without completing a registration form. In the future, the website will clearly state that registration is required to participate. It will also be clarified that there is no cost to plunge, and that the only cost is for the optional T-shirt purchase.

The committee discussed relocating the registration table to the dune entry point to prevent participants from bypassing registration. Improved signage will be created for future events. The registration form does not need to request email addresses, as it serves only as a liability release.

T-shirts are purchased annually from the same vendor at an approximate cost of $10 per shirt. Kelly suggested providing identifying items, such as hats or lanyards, for event workers. The committee also discussed the possibility of selling hoodies in future years. Erin will look into obtaining lanyards for committee members.

Three hot chocolate boxes were purchased from Surf Bagel for a total cost of $60. Registration was held from 9:00–10:00 a.m., with the plunge occurring at 10:30 a.m. The committee agreed there was too much time between registration and the plunge. For next year, registration will be held from 9:30–10:30 a.m., with the plunge remaining at 10:30 a.m.

4. Bonfire event

New date: July 18, 2026, 7-10 pm, Bayard St. The date was changed to accommodate the DJ whom we have an established working relationship. This date change may help with donations from the vendors giving them more of a chance to make money before needing to donate.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

Jacque read a letter addressed to the Mayor and committee members announcing her decision to step down as Chair of the Beach Committee. She asked if any current committee members would be interested in assuming the role of Chair. This meeting marked her final day serving in that position. Jacque noted that the decision was difficult but necessary due to personal circumstances requiring her attention elsewhere. Jacque was thanked for her hard work and dedicated service as Chair of the Beach Committee.

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7. Public participation

None

8. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 9:30 a.m. The bonfire will be discussed at the next meeting. Jacque stated she will compile a notebook containing notes and helpful information to be provided to the incoming Chair. The Beach Committee fund balance is approximately $45,000–$50,000, and events may be scaled back if necessary. Jacque noted she remains available to answer questions as needed.

Anne stated she is aware of a couple who have expressed interest in joining the committee and noted that the application is available online.

9. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting
Moved by: Pam Pridgeon
Seconded by: Kelly Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously