



The Town of Fenwick Island

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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Michael (Zoom) Janice Bortner (Zoom)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from February 10, 2026.

Motion: Approve Minutes from February 10, 2026, Meeting.

Moved by: Vicki Carmean

Seconded by: Tim Bergin

Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. Street Maintenance 2025-26 IC Motion to Council to Defer Maintenance for 2026 season and Have Use of Budget for 2027.
 - a. Susan Brennan advised that Town Council approved the request to defer Street Maintenance for 2026.
 - The budget from 2026 will be included in the 2027 budget.
3. Infrastructure Committee Motion to Council Regarding Projected 2050 NAVD88 Data.
 - a. Susan Brennan advised that Town Council discussed the Projected 2050 NAVD88 Data and it has been sent to Charter & Ordinance.
4. Committee Working Group Updates.
 - a. Tim Leahy provided an update of the Work Group.
 - The working group met twice, the last time with engineers, to review the recommendations and gain a better understanding of the proposed approaches.
 - The committee needs to prepare for the public meeting on May 29th and will need to simplify the engineers' decision matrix for the town's 21 focus areas for clearer public presentation, participation and to determine priority locations.
 - The discussion focused on the decision matrix evaluating the 21 focus areas in town to determine priority locations for projects.

- Straughan and the Work Group discussed potential solutions, including wave attenuator (WADs) for areas exposed to stronger wave action. Jon Miller added different specs for bulkheads on properties exposed to the Bay are possible, and also specs for porosity
- Questions were raised about raised bulkheads and impacts on boat access and boat lifts, particularly in narrow canals; related ordinance issues may need further review.
- The committee needs to produce a list of questions and meet with DNREC regarding projects that may involve state waters.
- Discussion also included road elevation and repaving, noting that raising roads may require grading adjustments and evaluation of stormwater systems.
- Tim Bergin mentioned that a study of the past 20 years of Fenwick tides -- using the USGS tide gauge at Madison Street -- shows tides which are slightly lower than the predictions in the 2023 *Resiliency Plan* from AECOM which referred to the *Delaware Sea-Level Technical Committee* report (2017). A major reason for the difference is that the 2017 report was state-wide and used input from NOAA gauges at (1) Reedy Point on the Delaware River and at (2) Lewes on the Delaware Bay. We believe it is important to include the actual readings as we work toward a resiliency plan with Straughan Environmental. The majority of the water in Little Assawoman Bay comes from Assawoman Bay in Ocean City, MD -- with which we share a significant border. Thus, we need to work with Ocean City to learn about their concerns and plans for dealing with sea-level rise over the next 50+ years.

5. Discuss Date, etc. for 4th Annual Fenwick Island Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Presentation.

- a. Susan Brennan would like to set a date for the next presentation including a draft of an agenda.
 - Susan Brennan advises that when presenting, be mindful that not everyone thinks like an engineer, it is important to help everyone understand.
 - Tim Bergin advises that doing it once schools are out for summer so that more families are able to attend.
 - Jon Miller asked if Tim Leahy felt it would be advantageous to have the meeting set up before the 8 tasks have been chosen, giving residents opportunity to contribute. Tim Leahy agreed.
 - Tim Bergin stressed the importance of grabbing public interest and participation. Highlight the Town's investment in professional consulting after not receiving the BRIC grant.
 - Geri Verlaque suggested residents should send in their questions ahead of time to help the committee have answers for them.
 - Vicki Carmean is curious if there some programs out there that could be discussed at the presentation to assist residents when raising bulk heads.
 - Tentative dates are Friday, May 29th 1-3 p.m. and Friday, August 21st 1-3 p.m.

- Strong advertising ahead of time will be advantageous in encouraging resident participation.
- Susan Brennan suggests the Work Group take the first step at setting the agenda items.
- Tim Leahy will draft up an agenda instead of the Work Group, Susan Brennan will draft up a flyer and research signs.

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.

- Tim Leahy attended the Conference with other municipalities, State agencies, and the University of Delaware all sharing the same environmental issues. This year's topic was how housing equity and how we build and use land is impacted by climate change.
- Tim Leahy felt that the networking was the real strength of the conference.
- Tim Leahy provided the committee with the news that DelDot has a huge pot of money for projects as does CRF (Community Reinvestment Fund) for capital projects.

- 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.

- Waiting for more information.

8. Public Participation.

- a. None.

9. Date of Next Meeting.

- a. March 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
b. April 14, 2026, at 1,0:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment.

Motion: Adjourn at 11:18a.m.

Moved by: Tim Leahy

Seconded by: Jon Miller

Motion Carried Unanimously.