



# The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

[www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)

## INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

**Others Present:** Ann Riley (Zoom)

**Staff Present:** Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

**Motion: Approve Minutes from March 10, 2026, Meeting with the understanding that Tim Bergin will redefine the sentence: "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."**

**Moved by: Vicki Carmean**

**Seconded by: Susan Brennan**

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

2. Discussion of Fenwick Island Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Presentation Friday, May 29, 2026, 1:00 PM Town Hall and via Zoom.
  - a. None.
3. Preliminary May 29 Presentation Content Worksheet.
  - a. Susan Brennan shared a copy of the worksheet she and Tim Leahy created for the May presentation with the committee.
    - Discussion of the topics to be discussed at the first presentation. Keeping it under 2 hours, providing clear information to the residents in non-technical terms, and the format for Q&A.

- The May presentation will provide an educational update on work completed since August 2025, with additional details to be presented in August.
- Discussion and questions on whether messaging to homeowners clearly stating bulkhead requirements and costs should be forthcoming. It was suggested to minimize controversy by taking an educational approach with simple messaging, using handouts and visual aids, using the available data from AECOM, Straughan, and Jay Ryan and Tim Bergin's collection.
- The ordinance review will be ongoing, and with all the information provided to the Charter & Ordinance, it could take some time for the committee to review and discuss all information.
- Discussion on advising of financial impact to be expected will encourage public involvement, it could prompt the request for more specific details before the committee has all the answers.
- Discussion on structure of the ordinance that is consistent with other towns, homeowner financial responsibility, and how to best present to homeowners the engineer's recommendations of bulkheads, lot elevations, and roads.
- The committee needs to reinforce that improvements are necessary and evolving based on ongoing and past studies.
- It was suggested to explore group discounts with contractors.
- Adding Farmington Street project to the agenda was requested.
- Suggested topics to include in the presentation were Delaware Climate Action Plan, beach renourishment, Seal Island as a reef barrier, DDOT wall, boat ramps, and boat lifts.
- Jay Ryan provided an update on his conversation with Brad Parks, City Engineer for Ocean City, MD. Ocean City doesn't have committees that are addressing the sea level rise. They are aware of it but not planning. Jay Ryan asked if they had any records of precipitation and was advised they have a gauge at 65<sup>th</sup> street and will send him the data. There is data from Georgetown, Lewes, and Salisbury. Ultimately the goal is to find out where the water is coming from.
- Tim Bergin thought if it was beneficial to Straughan he and Jay Ryan could meet with them to go over their data.
- Jay Ryan raised concern that we don't have enough detail on the assumptions which support Straughan's recommendation for target level elevation. Tim Leahy will follow up with Straughan regarding precipitation and glacier melt models as well as any built-in margin of error. This will allow the committee to better explain the recommendation.
- Susan Brennan will provide Farmington Street project cost data, including Public Works time.
- Tim Leahy will update the worksheet and distribute. He feels the next step should be to develop the slides and the content and will request Straughan to prepare their own presentation section.

4. Fenwick Island Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Presentation Friday, August 21, 2026, 1:00 PM Town Hall and via Zoom.
5. Old Business.
  - a. None.
6. New Business.
  - a. None.
7. Public Participation.
  - a. Ann Riley asked about why the times of the May and August meetings were in the afternoon.
    - This can be discussed further at another time.
  - b. Ann Riley emphasized the need for marketing to get the word out to residents and engage them.
    - Susan Brennan, Vicki Carmean and Ann Riley will work on marketing and bring to the next meeting.
8. Date of Next Meeting.
  - a. April 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
  - b. April 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
9. Adjournment.

**Motion: Adjourn at 11:28 a.m.**

**Moved by: Tim Leahy**

**Seconded by: Vicki Carmean**

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**