



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

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

Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present via Zoom: Chair Susan Brennan, Mayor Natalie Magdeburger, Stuart Rubenstein, Ann Riley, Lois Twilley

Members Absent: Julie Lee, Winnie Lewis

Others Present: Erin Ellinger

Call to Order and Flag Salute

1. Discuss/approve minutes from meeting held June 4, 2026.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 4, 2026, meeting.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Ann Riley

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discuss DRAFT DNREC's notice to coastal and bay beach communities regarding the Shoreline Public Access

Chair Brennan reported that since the previous meeting, DNREC had extended the deadline for submission of municipal shoreline public access plans. While the extension provides additional time, the Commission agreed it was important to continue moving forward with the process.

Ms. Brennan advised that she had contacted Josh Lippert and additional DNREC staff regarding participation in the Commission's June 25 meeting. She is awaiting confirmation regarding their availability.

Commission members agreed that meeting directly with DNREC representatives is a critical next step before finalizing the Town's position and recommendations. Discussion focused on:

- The need to educate DNREC staff regarding the unique circumstances of the incorporated Town of Fenwick Island.
- Distinctions between incorporated Fenwick Island and surrounding unincorporated areas.
- Existing transportation options and public access opportunities already available within and around Town.
- The Town's lack of infrastructure to support large increases in beach visitation, including:
 - Limited sidewalks;



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- Public safety concerns;
- Lifeguard staffing impacts;
- Parking limitations; and
- Municipal service costs.

Mayor Magdeburger noted that many concerns raised by DNREC appear more applicable to unincorporated areas than to the Town itself. She emphasized that Fenwick Island already accommodates public transportation and has not taken actions to restrict bus service or bus stops.

The Commission discussed the value of having DNREC representatives attend the June 25 meeting in person rather than remotely. Members felt that an in-person visit would allow DNREC staff to better observe:

- Pedestrian activity along Bunting Avenue;
- The absence of sidewalks in many areas;
- Existing beach access conditions; and
- Public safety challenges associated with increased foot traffic.

Ann Riley recommended that the Commission hold a brief planning discussion prior to meeting with DNREC to establish a concise list of priorities and key discussion points. Members agreed that preparing a focused set of talking points would help ensure a productive conversation.

No formal action was taken.

3. Discuss DRAFT Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plan Annual Report

The Commission reviewed the Comprehensive Plan implementation matrix and discussed updates for inclusion in the 2026 Annual Report.

Chair Brennan explained that the matrix serves as a tracking tool for completed and ongoing Comprehensive Plan initiatives. The Commission reviewed the matrix item-by-item and discussed the status of various goals and objectives.

Discussion included:

- Ongoing reporting to Town Council regarding Comprehensive Plan implementation.
- Grants and partnerships secured or pursued by the Environmental Committee, Infrastructure Committee, Police Department, and Dark Sky Working Group.
- Continued review of ordinances related to freeboard requirements, flood prevention, and Dark Sky initiatives.
- Bicycle parking improvements throughout Town and the voluntary installation of bike racks by local businesses.



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- Pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns, including discussion of e-bikes, sidewalks, and enforcement considerations.
- Environmental initiatives including native landscaping, pollinator habitat improvements, dune grass plantings, Earth Day projects, and community cleanup events.
- Public education efforts related to Dark Sky principles and environmental stewardship.
- The Delaware Circuit Rider Program and the Commission's interest in learning more about available planning and transportation assistance resources.
- Ongoing coordination with DelDOT, DNREC, Sussex County, and regional planning organizations regarding transportation, pedestrian safety, beach access, and resiliency initiatives.
- Potential pedestrian safety enhancements, including the use of crossing flags at unsignalized crosswalks.
- Continued advocacy for beach replenishment, dredging, navigation improvements, and public access initiatives.
- Future outreach opportunities with DNREC's Division of Parks and Recreation.

The Commission agreed that many matrix items are ongoing in nature and should be reflected as completed or actively progressing within the Annual Report. Members also identified several items for continued focus during the coming year, including shoreline public access, coordination with state agencies, Circuit Rider engagement, and pedestrian safety initiatives.

No formal action was taken.

Old Business

No additional old business was discussed.

New Business

No additional new business was discussed.

Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance. No public participation occurred.

Meeting Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:57 AM.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Ann Riley



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Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: June 25, 2026, at 9:00 AM