



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 Minutes

August 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM | Town Hall & via Zoom

Members Present: Kurt Zanelotti, Sharon Harris, Anne Hodges

Members Absent: Odis Braxton, Pam Pridgeon, Kelly Rymer

Others Present: Erin Ellinger

Flag Salute and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was not present; therefore, the meeting proceeded for informational and discussion purposes only.

1. Approval of Minutes: May 8, June 5, and July 10, 2026

Approval of May 8, June 5, and July 10, 2026, meeting minutes were deferred due to the lack of a quorum. August 7, 2026, minutes will also be added for approval at the next meeting.

2. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Kurt Zanelotti thanked everyone for their work on the Town Bonfire and noted that, despite weather-related challenges, the event was successful.

3. Old Business

Fenwick Flicks

The July 17 showing of Happy Feet was canceled. Because the movie rights remain valid for one year, committee members supported rescheduling the film for June 2027 rather than adding it to the remaining 2026 schedule. Committee members discussed coverage for Minions on August 14 and Casablanca on August 21. Final volunteer assignments will be confirmed closer to each date.

Town Bonfire Review

The event generated approximately \$10,000 in revenue. Expenses totaled approximately \$3,700 for the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department, portable restroom, DJ, ice, water, T-shirts, and glow sticks, resulting in net proceeds of approximately \$6,000. The funds support the Fenwick Island Beach Patrol, including expenses associated with the lifeguard competition in Fort Lauderdale. Future event advertising should more clearly explain how proceeds benefit the Beach Patrol, and promotional wording should be discussed during event planning.

Committee members generally supported holding the bonfire during the Fourth of July weekend to better serve residents and their visiting families. Saturday, July 3, 2027, was identified as the preferred date, with Monday, July 5, 2027, suggested as the rain date. Chairman Zanelotti will contact the DJ to reserve the date. A formal recommendation will be made when a quorum is present.



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The committee discussed the silent auction and suggested establishing higher opening bids or reserves for higher-value items. For future auction closeout, bidding should end at a clearly announced time, approximately 9:15 PM; the final bidder should be highlighted consistently; items and bid sheets should remain in place until payment and pickup; and volunteers should continue to be assigned to designated groups of items. A brief pre-event meeting should be held with volunteers so everyone follows the same process.

More T-shirts remained unsold than in prior years. Adult medium shirts were the largest group remaining, while larger sizes sold more strongly. Staff will review prior meeting minutes and sales trends before the next order so quantities and sizes can be adjusted.

Square payment processing was unreliable because of limited cellular service on the beach. Chairman Zanelotti will speak with Mike Locke about updated equipment or technology. The Finance Director, Town Treasurer, and auditors should be consulted regarding whether a municipal Venmo, Zelle, or other electronic payment option would be appropriate, including applicable business-account fees and controls.

4. New Business

Beach Toy Library

It was mentioned that Kelly Rymer had previously proposed placing a labeled box at a beach end where visitors could leave or borrow reusable beach toys. The committee discussed testing the idea at one location and will revisit the proposal at the next meeting.

Fenwick Freeze Planning

The 2027 Fenwick Freeze will be held on January 1. T-shirt planning will begin in September, and Chairman Zanelotti will request design options from the shirt vendor. Registration is generally held from 9:00 to 10:00 AM, with the ocean plunge at 10:30 AM. Planning needs include approximately 50 shirts, hot chocolate, Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Police Department support, a fire pit with approximately one-half cord of wood coordinated by Mike Locke, tables, and payment equipment. No portable restroom or rain date is planned.

Beach Patrol Appreciation

Anne purchased and delivered doughnuts, milk, and juice to the lifeguards at a cost of approximately \$115. The committee also planned its annual watermelon day for Wednesday, August 12, at 9:00 AM at Town Hall. Members will cut and bag approximately five watermelons for distribution to the lifeguards, and Chairman Zanelotti will purchase the watermelons. Erin Ellinger will ask Ryk whether the Beach Patrol needs a refrigerator or a durable wheeled cooler for the sheds.

5. Public Participation

There was no public participation, and no attendees were present via Zoom.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:48 AM.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 4, 2026, at 9:30 AM.