



The Town of Fenwick Island

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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Jay Ryan, Jon Miller, D. Scott Negley, Vicki Carmean

Members Present Via Zoom: Jack Armstrong, Tim Leahy, Susan Brennan, Geri Verlaque, Tim Bergin

Members Absent:

Other Participants: Kathy Grab, Tina Sepahpur (Zoom), Dr. Tim Canty (Zoom), Michael Miller (Zoom), Brad Fielding (Zoom)

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

1. Approval of prior minutes from June 9, 2026.

Motion: Approve Minutes from June 9, 2026, with clarification made to identify the project as the South - West Dagsboro Street.

Moved by: Vicki Carmean

Seconded by: Tim Leahy

Abstained: None.

Motion Carried.

2. Council Meeting Decision and Update.

a. Susan Brennan reported that Town Council approved moving forward with both priority resiliency projects: South – West Dagsboro Street and West South Carolina Avenue.

- Rather than selecting only one project, Council approved advancing both following discussion regarding project priorities, matching funding, and grant opportunities.

3. BRIC/FMA Grant Submissions and Budget Overviews.

a. Tim Leahy provided update on FEMA grant applications.

- Applications were submitted for both the BRIC and FMA grant programs.
- The BRIC application was submitted on July 2, and the FMA application on July 7.
- Both applications request funding for the same two resiliency projects.

- Council approved using approximately \$330,000 already invested in the resiliency planning effort toward the required local match.
 - Total project cost is estimated at approximately \$1.9 million, including roadway improvements, berms, bioswales, bioretention areas, and other green infrastructure.
 - FEMA responses are anticipated no earlier than September 30. Committee members noted that requests for additional information during the review process would be viewed as a positive indication that the applications are receiving consideration.
 - Committee Members also discussed sharing the project cost estimates and supporting materials presented to Town Council.
4. Straughan Tasks: Pre-final Design for the Two Projects is Next and What an Engineering Report will Entail.
- a. Tim Leahy reviewed the next phase of Straughn Environmental's work.
 - b. Committee discussion continued.
 - Development of pre-final engineering designs for the two selected projects.
 - Preparation of the engineering report required for permitting and future grant applications.
 - Environmental permitting requirements, including NEPA, remain under review.
 - Members agreed future planning should remain flexible to accommodate changing funding opportunities and project priorities.
5. ARCGIS Suggested Story Maps be Part of August 21 Forum.
- a. Tim Leahy demonstrated the Town's new ArcGIS platform and discussed its use during the August public forum.
 - b. Committee discussion continued.
 - Interactive Story Maps displaying drainage basins, proposed infrastructure improvements, flooding locations, bioswales, bulkheads, and wave attenuation devices.
 - Incorporating photographs, maps, and educational information into the presentation.
 - Using the Story Map as a long-term public education resource on the Town website.
 - Committee members supported using the Story Map in conjunction with a PowerPoint presentation.
6. August 21 Forum Focus.
- a. The Committee discussed the format of the upcoming public forum.
 - An overview of resiliency efforts and project selection.
 - Explanation of proposed improvements and anticipated benefits.
 - Interactive Story Map demonstration.

- Question and answer session.

7. Old Business.

a. MARACCOOS Opportunity Continues.

- Tim Bergin introduced Dr. Tim Canty (University of Maryland) and Tina Sepahpur (MARACCOOS Climate Resilience Network).
- Both discussed the opportunity for the Town to participate in the HydroNet program.
- They explained that the program would install water level sensors at no cost to the Town to provide real-time flood and water level monitoring. The network would support flood resilience planning, improve regional data collection, and expand coverage into Delaware through partnerships with the University of Delaware.
- Dr. Canty noted the sensors provide live data, a public dashboard, and notification capabilities when water reaches predetermined levels.
- Both speakers emphasized the value of community partnerships, local involvement in maintaining the network, and using the data to support future planning and resilience efforts.
- Dr. Canty provided the link for the Hydronet: <https://hydronet.umd.edu/>
- Dr. Canty provided his email for any upcoming questions: tcanty@umd.edu
- The Committee discussed the value of additional monitoring, forecasting tools, and data resources to support future planning efforts.

8. New Business.

a. H&H Dialog.

- Discussion focused on the importance of future hydrology and hydraulics studies, supporting future grant applications, providing technical justification for resiliency projects, and assisting with potential ordinance development and possible legal understanding.

9. Public Participation.

a. Brad Fielding thanked the Committee for the informative meeting and stated he learned more during this discussion than at previous meetings.

- He encouraged the Committee to address the following topics during the August forum: estimated project costs, potential homeowner impacts, project schedule, methods for measuring project success, recommended elevations and specifications, and whether the Town or individual property owners should lead resiliency efforts.
- He offered to volunteer for future committee efforts.

10. Date of Next Meeting.

- a. August 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Forum August 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
- c. Consider Other Dates for Forum Presentation Organization: 7/28, 8/4, or 8/18 – if needed.

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Moved by: Vicki Carmean

Seconded by: Jon Miller

Motion Carried Unanimously.