



The Town of Fenwick Island

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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Susan Brennan, Jay Ryan, Tim Bergin, Jon Miller, Vicki Carmean, Geri Verlaque,

Members Present Via Zoom: Jack Armstrong, Tim Leahy

Members Absent: Dwight Scott Negley

Other Participants: Kathy Grab, Jim Simpson,

Flag salute and call to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from July 14, 2026.

Motion: Approve Minutes from July 14, 2026,

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Vicki Carmean

Abstained:

Motion Carried.

2. MARACOOS Update.

a. Tim Bergin.

- Tim Bergin reported on meetings with Ocean City and South Bethany. Ocean City is moving forward with several MARACOOS/Hydronet monitors, expanding the network into the Maryland-Delaware area.
- The additional monitoring network will provide bay level, precipitation, wind direction, and wind velocity data and may support future emergency response, planning and engineering decisions.
- The Committee discussed the value of coordinating data with existing gauges in the region. A meeting with the former DE State Climatologist is scheduled for Friday to obtain additional scientific input on the data collected to date.
- The Committee agreed that the MARACOOS update should not be the focus of the August 21 forum; the forum should concentrate on the Town's current resiliency work, projects, and next steps.

- Potential monitor locations discussed included West Dagsboro at the bridge, Madison Street and Bay Street, with consideration of impacts on surrounding streets.

3. BRIC/FMA Grant Submissions Updates.

a. Tim Leahy.

- Tim Leahy reported that the BRIC and FMA applications have been submitted. No additional updates have been received; September 30 is the earliest anticipated notification.

4. Straughan Updates.

a. Tim Leahy.

- Straughan is preparing its engineering study/master plan report. A draft is expected to be available for Committee review before the September meeting.
- Straughan is also moving forward with pre-final designs for the two selected projects. Surveys and coordination regarding scope and cost drivers are underway.
- Pre-final designs are expected in the fall, construction is contingent on grant funding.

5. August 21 Forum Presentation Discussion.

a. Tim Leahy.

- The Committee reviewed Tim Leahy's draft presentation and discussed the purpose and focus of the August 21 forum.
- The forum should provide an update since the May 29 forum, including the selected projects, grant submissions, the implementation timeline, and actions that can be taken while awaiting funding.
- The Committee agreed that the Q&A from the May forum should be organized by topic and made available to attendees, demonstrating that residents' questions were addressed.
- The presentation should clearly explain that changes involving barriers/bulkheads and lot elevation standards will require a multi-year process and coordination with the Charter & Ordinance Committee and Town Council.
- The Committee discussed the importance of clearly distinguishing lot-elevation requirements for new construction from future requirements affecting existing barriers/bulkheads. Tim will revise the presentation wording for clarity.
- ArcGIS Story Maps were demonstrated. The Committee agreed the full Story Map is better suited for future use/Town Council, but a current drainage-system map may be shown at the August 21 forum to answer questions about drainage connections and maintenance.

- The two selected projects will be highlighted, including the proposed work in the public right-of-way and potential impacts to adjacent private property.
- Private-property storm-water retention mitigation options to be discussed may include swales, rain gardens, rain barrels, pervious surfaces, bioswales and other storm water retention options to coordination with adjacent berms or bulkheads.
- The Committee discussed small demonstration projects that could proceed while awaiting larger grant funding, including bioswales, rain gardens, and berm improvements. Smaller green-infrastructure grants may provide funding opportunities.
- The Committee discussed the need for additional Town capacity to manage resiliency-related engineering, inspections, ordinances, and implementation. This may be considered as a future Infrastructure Committee recommendation.

6. Old Business.

- a. None.

7. New Business.

a. Possible DNREC Surface Water Matching Planning Grant Program Submission.

- Susan Brennan reported on a new matching grant opportunity expected at the end of August. The Town will review the program for potential projects involving surface-water management, including retention swales and rain gardens.

b. Street paving.

- West Essex Street was identified as the Town's most urgent paving need. Paving was deferred last year while the Town worked with Straughan so improvements would not interfere with resiliency work.
- Public Works is expected to address the street-end drainage issue this fall. The Committee discussed coordinating this work with the roadway improvements and considering a Farmington Street-type approach.
- Funds budgeted for street maintenance remain available for the work.

8. Public Participation.

a. Jim Simpson.

- Jim Simpson asked if there would be the potential of future height/elevation requirements for lots.

- The Committee explained that any changes will be subject to a formal process and further discussion; no specific future height requirement was established at this meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting.

a. Resiliency Forum August 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

b. September 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

c. Consider Other Dates for Forum Presentation Organization: 8/18.

- An informal presentation review may be scheduled before the August 21 forum. Committee members will be notified if a preview/rehearsal is arranged.

10. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Moved by: Tim Bergin

Seconded by: Jon Miller

Abstained:

Motion Carried.