



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

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

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present: Jay Ryan, Tim Leahy, Geri Verlaque

Members Present Via Zoom: Jack Armstrong, Susan Brennan, Jon Miller

Members Absent: Vicki Carmean, Tim Bergin, Dwight Scott Negley

Other Participants: Kathy Grab, Michael Miller, Brad Fielding

Flag salute and call to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from August 11, 2026.

Motion: Approve Minutes from August 11, 2026, with corrections: 4a., 3rd bullet: "...followed by bid documents. CONSTRUCTION is contingent on funding." and 7b., 1st bullet, 2nd sentence: "Paving was deferred LAST YEAR..."

Motion Carried.

2. MARACOOS Update.

a. Jay Ryan.

- Jay Ryan and Tim Bergin met with Dr. David Legates who offered to assist the committee.
- Dr. Legates reviewed the Town's historical bay-level data and indicated that the next 20 years may show a similar trend to the past 20 years, with an estimated 3–4 inches of rise. He felt the published future bay-level projections were somewhat conservative.
- Jay Ryan will prepare a spreadsheet identifying dates during the past 20 years when the bay level exceeded two ft. Dr. Legates offered to review the information.
- Delaware Environmental Observing System (DEOS) was discussed. A monitoring station in Fenwick Island could potentially cost less than \$10,000.
- The Committee agreed to see what information can be obtained through Hydro net before considering the expense of a DEOS station. Potential Hydro net locations discussed included the Dagsboro Bridge area and a northern location.
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3. Straughan Updates.

a. Tim Leahy.

- The project is progressing toward receipt of the draft engineering report, expected by the end of September, followed by Committee review and a meeting to further scope the two projects. The project schedule is behind the original timeline, with survey work and permitting still required before construction can begin; construction is now anticipated to extend into next year.
- The projects, as originally scoped, may exceed the available funding. Value/cost engineering will be used to establish priorities and keep each project near the anticipated \$1 million funding level for each project. Tim Leahy will contact Larry Trout to schedule the next meeting and will keep Jon Miller informed.
- The Committee discussed coordinating resiliency improvements on high-priority private properties adjacent to public projects, including potential berm extensions and other property-specific solutions. Tim Leahy also compiled information on recent bulkhead permits and estimated costs that may assist in developing guidance and financing information for property owners.
- Structured berms and sandbag/HESCO-type barriers on private property were discussed as potential resiliency measures.

4. ARCGIS.

a. Tim Leahy.

- ARCGIS was tabled from the August 21 forum because of the amount of material. Tim Leahy recommends a 5–7-minute presentation to the Town Council at the September meeting.
- The Committee discussed Story Maps that display photographs and information at specific locations on a map.
- ARCGIS could support future public presentations, website information, and other functions in the Town. Ongoing support would be available on a time and materials basis and relatively low cost.

5. August 21 Forum Debriefing and Next Steps.

a. Susan Brennan requested the committee's thoughts on the last forum.

- Susan Brennan reported approximately 60 people in attendance, most were first-time participants.
- Committee members felt the presentation was well received and that omitting the ARCGIS presentation allowed for more time for discussion.

- The Committee discussed developing property-specific resiliency guidance, including case studies for bay- and canal-facing properties, and advancing recommendations for Charter and Ordinance review.
- South Bethany's regulations regarding impervious surfaces were discussed as a potential example for Charter & Ordinance to review. Jon Miller will review the Town's existing ordinance.
- Town-owned street ends, including Georgetown Street, may provide opportunities for future resiliency projects as maintenance work is completed.
- The Committee will continue to monitor grant opportunities beyond BRIC and consider future participation by DNREC.

6. Old Business.

- a. None.

7. New Business.

- a. Jay Ryan asked whether committee sign-up was available online and was advised that it was.
- b. A League of Women Voters presentation featuring Danielle Swallow was discussed. Susan Brennan will forward the information to the Committee.
- c. Essex St. Repaving.
 - The Committee discussed incorporating resiliency improvements into the Essex Street repaving project, including raising the road crown and edges while minimizing impacts to adjoining properties.
 - Survey information, including right-of-way locations and elevations at property lines and driveways, was discussed to determine whether improvements such as additional pavement, swales, or bioswales could be accommodated.
 - Susan Brennan will discuss survey requirements and costs with the Town's surveyor and review the Town's 10-year road maintenance plan before the next meeting.
 - The Committee discussed the feasibility of adding approximately two inches of pavement where appropriate without requiring a full engineering design. The engineer will be consulted, and any improvements should be consistent with the Committee's project-priority process and available funding.
 - Essex Street may provide an opportunity to evaluate resilient paving methods on a smaller-scale project before applying them more broadly.

8. Public Participation.

- a. None.

9. This is the Last Meeting of the 2025-26 Committee Season.

a. Committee Reappointment & Sign-Up.

- Susan Brennan thanked Committee members for their time and contributions during the season.
- Members were reminded and encouraged to fill out the committee reappointment/sign-up forms by using the link provided by Erin Ellinger.

10. Date of Next Meeting.

- a. October 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Moved by: Geri Verlaque

Seconded by: Tim Leahy

Abstained: None

Motion Carried.