The Town of Fenwick Island

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PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
October 22, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes

Members Present in Person: Lois Twilley

Members Present via Zoom: Susan Brennan, Ann Riley, Natalie Magdeburger, Stu Rubenstein

Members Excused Absence: Julie Lee

Others Present: Erin Ellinger

Call to Order and Flag Salute

Chair Susan Brennan called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of September 24, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 24, 2026, meeting.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Lois Twilley
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

2. DNREC Shoreline Public Access Plan

The Commission continued its detailed review of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Shoreline Public Access Plan template and the Town's draft responses. Chair Brennan noted that Mayor Magdeburger and Commission member Ann had prepared material for review. Mayor Magdeburger shared the working document on screen, and members reviewed and refined its language and organization.

Mapping and access inventory. Members discussed the scope of DNREC's mapping and public-access assessment requirements, including the need to identify access points, amenities, parking, and conditions within the specified vicinity of shoreline access locations. Chair Brennan reported exploring the Town's ArcGIS capabilities and the possibility of obtaining existing mapping resources or assistance from DNREC or other state agencies. The Commission noted the considerable time and technical work involved in completing the mapping and accompanying assessment spreadsheet.

Parking information. Chair Brennan reported receiving a spreadsheet from Police Clerk Caroline Jowder containing seasonal parking information organized by approximately 24 parking zones. Members discussed incorporating paid and free parking, including unmarked bayside side-street parking, into the assessment. They also considered how to account for parking and public-access conditions in nearby unincorporated areas, particularly where locations fall within one-half mile of Town access points. Members discussed parking availability, enforcement, pedestrian visibility, and safety differences between incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Existing activities and facilities. The Commission reviewed draft descriptions of the Town's current activities that support shoreline access, including maintaining dune crossings, providing accessibility features such as Mobi-Mats, managing parking, posting signage, supporting beach safety, and public events. Members suggested grouping related activities under clearer headings to make the plan easier to read and avoid repetition. Mayor Magdeburger agreed to reorganize and refine these sections.

Accessibility, safety, and communication. Members considered how best to describe equitable access and mobility accommodations, pedestrian connectivity, safety, and public awareness within DNREC's template. The discussion included the Town's public-notification channels and emergency communications, pedestrian crossings and flashing signs along Coastal Highway, and the Town's red-flag pedestrian safety program. Mayor Magdeburger provided an update on correspondence with DelDOT regarding that program and indicated that no response had been received to the Town's most recent letter, sent in August.

Implementation and next steps. The Commission reviewed sections concerning proposed activities, implementation tools, funding, scheduling, public engagement, and distribution of information. Members noted that many activities described in the plan are already performed by the Town on an ongoing basis. Mayor Magdeburger agreed to continue editing the draft, particularly the existing-activities and limitations sections, and to organize the accessibility and safety material. Chair Brennan agreed to continue working on maps, the access-point inventory, and the assessment spreadsheet. Members anticipated another review of the revised draft at the next meeting.

3. Old Business

No formal action was taken under Old Business.

4. New Business

No formal action was taken under New Business.

5. Public Participation

No members of the public were present; therefore, no public participation occurred.

6. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:41 AM
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Lois Twilley
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

7. Next Meeting

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2026, at 9:00 AM.