The Town of Fenwick Island

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PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
September 24, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Town Hall
Minutes

Call In #: 1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 817 7454 1847
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81774541847

Members Present at Town Hall: Susan Brennan, Natalie Magdeburger, Julie Lee, Ann Riley, Lois Twilley

Members Present via Zoom: Stuart Rubenstein

Others Present: Erin Ellinger, Coast TV

Call to Order and Flag Salute

1. Discuss/approve minutes from meeting held June 25, 2026.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 25, 2026, meeting.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Second: Julie Lee
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discuss DNREC's notice to coastal and bay beach communities plan regarding the Shoreline Public Access

Susan Brennan reviewed the Commission's June discussion with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and said it was time to begin preparing the Shoreline Public Access Plan. She described the State's stated interest in equitable access to Delaware beaches and stewardship of public funds. Members reviewed the DNREC template and discussed dividing the work among themselves before assembling a complete draft.

Mapping and data - The Commission discussed preparing a digital map showing Town boundaries, public access points, parking, accessible parking, Mobi-Mats, signage and other amenities. Members emphasized distinguishing incorporated Fenwick Island from the adjacent unincorporated area and showing nearby Fenwick Island State Park parking and facilities, especially where they fall within the template's half-mile area. Susan agreed to lead the mapping and existing-access portions of the work and to contact the

University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration about mapping assistance. Members also discussed using the Town's existing maps, parking inventory and ArcGIS mapping tool.

Parking and use - Susan reported that ParkMobile data is available by parking zone rather than individual space. Members discussed using zone data to estimate use, while recognizing that the data would not include all permit holders. The Town's existing inventory of marked parking spaces and free parking on the bayside may help populate the plan. The Commission also discussed documenting the 11 ocean beach access streets, street-end parking, beach access signage and the parking and amenities at the state park. Members noted that the State's sample table requests information on parking within a half mile of each access point and can be expanded for Town locations.

Access amenities - Members identified Mobi-Mats, beach wheelchairs and beach transport, bike racks, benches, trash facilities, guarded swimming, pedestrian crosswalks and crossing flags as services or facilities to document. Susan said photographs could be taken while seasonal amenities remain in place and that the Commission should obtain seasonal beach crossover figures from Beach Patrol Captain Ryk. Members discussed checking whether wheelchair use or deliveries are tracked. They also noted beach-end signs and signs that help children identify their location.

Access conditions and regulations - Members discussed whether any temporary or permanent restrictions limit public access in Town. They identified occasional street closures associated with construction but did not identify a permanent beach access closure during the discussion. The Commission also discussed existing low-speed vehicle and shuttle regulations, Route 1 bus stops, and the need to describe the Town's actual conditions accurately in response to questions raised by DNREC. Members said the Town had not removed bus stops.

Implementation and stewardship - The Commission reviewed the template sections on proposed improvements, signage, environmental stewardship, maintenance, costs and implementation schedules. Members suggested describing dune and crossover maintenance, beach and street cleaning, Earth Day and other cleanup activities, bonfire rules and the Town's guarded beach service. They also discussed identifying bayside access, parks, a pier and access for nonmotorized watercraft, while completing the template's inventory of amenities. Natalie offered to prepare an initial draft of the implementation tools section, including plans, ordinances, programs, maintenance, funding and schedule information.

Public engagement and format - Members discussed using Facebook, mayoral messages, the Town's new notification system and local media to communicate information about the plan.

Ann Riley was asked to work on the public engagement portion. Erin agreed to redistribute the DNREC template. Members reviewed its embedded access-location table, which DNREC intends to use for GIS data, and discussed organizing entries by street and adding identifying numbers after locations are compiled. The Commission will bring its collected information together for further review.

3. Old Business

No old business was raised.

4. New Business

Planning Commission appointment - Susan noted that Natalie Magdeburger's current term ends at the end of the year and asked whether she wished to continue serving. Natalie expressed her willingness to remain on the Commission.

Motion: To recommend that Town Council appoint Natalie Magdeburger to another five-year term on the Planning Commission.
Moved by: Susan Brennan
Second: Julie Lee
Result: Motion carried with five in favor, none opposed and Natalie abstaining.

Comprehensive Plan review - Susan asked members to begin thinking about the next five-year review of the Comprehensive Plan, which was approved in February 2024. Members mentioned resiliency, the Town's character, nearby development and traffic as possible topics. Natalie suggested a brief online survey asking residents for their principal concerns, potentially distributed during the off-season. No action was taken.

Traffic and pedestrian access - Members discussed congestion on Routes 1 and 54, traffic signal timing, pedestrian crossings and the Town's crossing flag program. Natalie described potential follow-up with DelDOT regarding signal timing and the flags and reported that the Town had acquired solar-powered flashing crossing lights for deployment, including on Essex Street. No motion was made.

5. Public Participation

Jim Simpson asked whether anyone had seen a person walking a bicycle along Coastal Highway while carrying a pedestrian flag.

6. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:13 AM.
Moved by: Susan Brennan
Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

The Commission agreed to meet on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 9:00 AM to review progress on the shoreline access plan. Members noted that the plan is due to DNREC by the end of the year.