The Town of Fenwick Island

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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
Town Hall
MINUTES

Members Present in Town Hall: Jim McGarry

Members Present Via Zoom: Tim Bergin, Susan Brennan, Tim Leahy, Jay Ryan,

Members Absent: Jack Armstrong, Janet Eshbach, Kim Knight, Jon Miller

Other Participants: Kathy Grab, Jim Simpson (Zoom), Michael Miller (Zoom), Brad Fielding (Zoom), Jim Spacco (Zoom), Fran Chiaramonte

Flag salute and call to order at 10:06 a.m.

1. Approval of prior minutes from September 8, 2026.

   Motion: Approve Minutes from September 8, 2026.

   Moved by: Tim Leahy

   Seconded by: Tim Bergin

   Abstained: Jim McGarry

   Motion Carried.

2. Committee Procedures, History, and Introductions.
   a. Susan Brennan.
      - Susan Brennan provided the Committee with the history and procedures of the Committee and requested members to introduce themselves and provide background.
      - Committee members introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds and areas of experience.
3. Nor'easter September 23-26.
   a. Susan Brennan shared updates from the Town's perspective following discussions with Building Official Mike Locke.
      - Water levels on the bayside were exceptionally high, reaching Coastal Highway, and flooding affected streets throughout Town.
      - Beach dunes held, although the beach south of Farmington Street sustained greater damage than areas to the north. Public Works coordinated with DNREC and replaced approximately 450 beach

access posts and fencing. Dunes held well, Farmington and South took a huge hit. Farmington and North fared well.

- Water levels reached approximately 3.02 ft., the highest level since Hurricane Sandy. The prolonged easterly winds followed by a shift to the north/northwest pushed water into the bays and canals.
- Bethany Beach Fire Department used their Humvee on Saturday during the storm to access the Town.

4. Straughan Environmental.
    a. Tim Leahy.
        - Tim Leahy reported that Straughan completed concept designs in July for the two projects selected for further design. Straughan is developing an online StoryMap and a PDF engineering report; a draft report was expected during the week.
        - The next phase will develop pre-final designs and engineering drawings suitable for bidding.
        - The two projects are expected to require state or federal funding. Early estimates indicate costs may exceed the original budget of approximately $1 million per project, and the Committee will review scope and potential adjustments with Straughan.
        - Tim Leahy reported that no update had been received from Delaware Emergency Management regarding the FEMA grant applications.
        - Tim Leahy agreed to follow up on a request to learn how to download the July 2026 grant request.
5. ARCGIS.
    a. Tim Leahy.
        - Tim Leahy shared the Fenwick Island StoryMap an interactive ArcGIS resource combining maps, text, historical aerial imagery, flood information, and project analysis.
        - The StoryMap summarizes the Town's resiliency planning, flood types, historical changes, bulkhead, and berm elevation recommendations, and the two selected projects.
        - It can be expanded over time and may also support other Town departments by linking information to mapped assets such as drains.
        - It will require editing and work, before it can be made accessible to the public.
        - Tim Leahy will continue to work with Straughan on this.
6. Road Maintenance 2027 Update.
    a. Susan Brennan.

- Susan Brennan reviewed the Town's 10-year road maintenance schedule, developed in 2021–2022 to prioritize roads from worst to best. Paving was deferred the previous year while the Town began working with engineers. Planning for spring 2027 paving is now underway.
- Susan Brennan is coordinating a meeting between the paving contractor and engineers to review the schedule and determine the best approach.
- The existing budget is several years old, and the paving costs have increased substantially.
- The engineers have discussed raising road centerlines by as much as five inches; however, the lack of functioning swales or ditches in some areas complicates the approach.
- Paving plans remain on hold pending the contractor-engineer discussion.

7. Bulkhead Repair.
    a. Susan Brennan.
        - Susan Brennan reported two Town-owned bulkheads need to be repaired. One on Atlantic Street and the other on Madison Street.
        - An initial price has been obtained, and Mike Locke will confirm whether the estimate includes a four-foot elevation (NAVD 88). Further information was not yet available as Mike Locke is away.
        - Jay Ryan noted the urgent need of the bulkhead repair on Madison Ave with a failed piling and the structure bulging toward the bay. Susan Brennan confirmed the Town is working to address the repairs, and she will provide an update at the next meeting.
8. Old Business.
    a. MARACOOS.
        - Tim Bergin provided an update on MARACOOS and the proposed expansion of its water-level monitoring network to include Ocean City, Fenwick Island, and South Bethany. The expansion was approved and is expected to be provided at no cost to the participating communities.
        - A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been drafted but had not yet been circulated for review. Tim Bergin will continue following up to obtain the MOU for consideration by the Town.
        - The network could provide modern water-level sensors, with data maintained by the University of Maryland.
        - The Committee also discussed the potential for multiple sensors and webcams, as well as combining tide and weather information to improve understanding of local conditions and support alerts.

- Tim Bergin explained that coordinated monitoring across the coastal bays would help communities better understand water movement and flooding patterns.
- Tim Bergin requested the MARACOOS online seminar be sent out to the Committee members and the link to their home page: Homepage - MARACOOS

9. New Business.
    a. None.
10. Public Participation.
    a. None.
11. Date of Next Meeting.
    a. November 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
12. Adjournment

    Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

    Moved by: Jim McGarry

    Seconded by: Tim Bergin

    Abstained: None

    Motion Carried.