



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway
Fenwick Island DE 19944
302.539.3011 * Fax: 302.539.1305

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Members Present:

**Gardner Bunting, Gene Langan, Tim Collins, Reid Tingle, Adam Horn (*Ropewalk*),
Kristi Maravalli, Bryan Reed, Diane Tingle, Merritt Burke and Pat Schuchman**

***Absent:* Marc McFaul, Gabby Mancini, Scott Mumford**

***Public in Attendance:* Spiros Buas, Julie Lee**

Flag Salute and Call to Order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Diane Tingle made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2015 meeting, seconded by Kristi Maravalli. Motion passed.

Items for Discussion:

Gardner Bunting began the meeting by saying that the BD Committee was successful in its request of Town Council to amend the Sign Ordinance to change the number of flags allowed for some commercial buildings and to also allow A-frame signs in front of businesses year-round.

He pointed out that there is a concern in the business district that there are currently twelve vacant store fronts. Kristie Maravalli commented that she can help attract businesses to Fenwick Island via the Chamber of Commerce.

Bryan Reed of the Public Works Department gave a status of the request for year-round pole lights. Tim Collins added that some of the lights used for the holidays could also be used year-round since they are of a nautical theme. Delmarva Power does permit the Town to put up pole lights during the holidays but Mr. Bunting cautioned the pole lights are not wired for continuous use. Gene Langan and Mr. Bunting will look into the possibility of a budget adjustment to consider the purchase of new lights. To replace the lights now would run from \$650 to \$2,100 per light. If purchased after the holiday season the lights may reduce by \$200 to \$600 each.

Tim Collins further commented that the lights are about twenty years old. When purchased the businesses contributed to the cost of the holiday lights.

The discussion continued on enhancing the look of the business district. Merritt Burke stated he would invite Diane Liard of Delaware Main Street to attend a future BD Committee Meeting. Reid Tingle made a motion to have Mr. Burke invite Ms. Liard to address a future BD Committee meeting seconded by Tim Collins. Mr. Tingle added that Berlin, Maryland is a good example of a re-developed Main Street. He further commented that although re-development is not acceptable to a small minority of Town residents, empty buildings are a deterrent to an improved business district.

Diane Tingle continued that the business district was created in 1953 and needs to accommodate the needs of the district.

Both Mr. Collins and Ms. Maravalli commented that the major concern throughout the business district is parking and would encourage all businesses to consider shared parking particularly during the summer season.

Mr. Langan and Ms. Tingle would like to see lighted signs on each end of Town welcoming visitors to the Town's business district.

Reid Tingle stated he would contact the Freeman Foundation and Quiet Resorts Foundation to see if funds are available for Main Street re-development. He mentioned that the Turkey Trot and the Fenwick Freeze could be a resource for collecting funds for such Main Street enhancement. He added that the Town could buy and supply a Town logo flag to each Resident Merchant to display.

Diane Tingle asked that postcards be sent to all Resident Merchants notifying them of upcoming BD Committee meetings.

Gene Langan announced that, as Audrey Serio's successor as Town Mayor, the Town will remain business friendly and help in efforts to obtain successful businesses.

Diane Tingle made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Gene Langan. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.