

**Town of Fenwick Island
Minutes of the Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting
April 7, 2015**

Call to Order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Committee Members Bill Weistling, Gene Langan, Roy Williams, Diane Tingle, Winnie Lewis, Mike Quinn and Pat Schuchman

Absent: Ben Waide, Merritt Burke

Public in Attendance: Richard Benn, Virginia (Childers) Davidson

Minutes:

- Gene Langan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2015 seconded by Mike Quinn. Motion passed.

Issues for Discussion & Possible Action:

- Bill Weistling began discussion on a request by the Business Development Committee to consider changes to the Sign Ordinance.
- Bryan Reed is in contact with DELDOT and Delmarva Power to address the BD committee's interest in banners installed in the State right-of-way on the electric poles. This was looked into several years ago and DELDOT denied this same request based on a potential hazard to high vehicles using the right-of-way.
- Pat Schuchman continued with a request to allow A-frame signs all year long. Currently A-frame signs no larger than 2' x 3' are allowed only from September 15 through June 1, no closer than 10 feet from the property line and must be removed during windy conditions.
- After a discussion citing both pros and cons of such a change, the committee recommended to send to Town Council for consideration allowing one sign per business during business hours year-round and allow them to be placed on property with no setback requirements. A-shape signs would still be required to be removed during windy conditions.
- The BD committee also requested a relaxation of regulations for flags. Currently a free-standing building is allowed an American flag, a Delaware flag and one additional flag of choice. Subdivided buildings permit one flag per business.
- C&O committee members agreed to recommend to Town Council a change in the Sign Ordinance to allow three flags of the business owners choice (as defined in the ordinance a banner flag shall be no larger than 17' high and 3' wide or a traditional flag no larger than 4' x 6') for free-standing buildings and one flag of choice for each unit occupied by a business in a subdivided building. No business shall be permitted to display more than one banner flag.
- Finally the BD committee asked that C&O committee recommend to Town Council consideration of allowing more square footage for signs on subdivided buildings and to allow an additional sign for businesses occupying end units to be displayed on the side wall.
- Currently subdivided buildings are allowed up to three signs not to exceed one square foot of signage for each lineal foot of front building use for a single commercial business. There is no additional allowance for signage on the side wall beyond what is currently allowed.
- It was agreed by the C&O committee to recommend Town Council to consider an increase in the square footage from one square foot of signage to one and one-half feet of signage. It was decided to not consider additional signage for the side of a building although a business owner could use the signage allowance to have a sign on the side of their business if they choose.
- The committee also addressed the issue of freeboard being added to the floodplain ordinance and a change in height restriction. This will be discussed again at the Special Town Council meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Comprehensive Plan:

- Winnie Lewis announced the next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. Discussion will a review on land use and begin plans for the upcoming 10-year revision to the Comp Plan which will take place in 2017.

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
- Discussion as follows:
 - Chapter 135 – (Signs) – A-Frame Signs, Light Pole Banners Along Coastal Highway & Signs on Subdivided Buildings
 - Chapter 160 (Zoning) – Roof Height
 - Chapter 88 (Flood Damage Reduction) - Freeboard

Old:

None

New:

None

Adjourn:

- Gene Langan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diane Tingle. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.