



# The Town of Fenwick Island

---

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

[www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)

## Ad Hoc Election Committee Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2017

**Present:** Julie Lee, Vicki Carmean, Lynn Andrews, Diane Tingle, Terry Tieman, Pat Schuchman

**Absent:** Lisa Benn

**Minutes:** Vicki Carmean made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2016 Ad Hoc Election Committee meeting, seconded by Lynn Andrews. Motion passed.

### Discussion:

Julie Lee began the meeting at 3:00 p.m. She advised that Mary Wright has notified her she will withdraw from the committee.

At the last meeting held on May 26, 2016, there was discussion on voting by spouses of trusts where they were allowed to vote in Town elections prior to the 2008 Charter change but since then only the trustee can vote if not a resident of Town.

There was a proposed first reading of an amendment to the Charter – Section 9 (Voting) to be held at the December 9, 2016 Town Council meeting. Prior to the meeting there was a public workshop held on December 8, 2016 with the Town attorney in attendance to discuss the proposed amendment and changes to the Town's election procedures. This proposed amendment would allow spouses of trusts to vote in Town election, whether or not they are a Town resident.

Also discussed was to consider a Charter amendment to limit the number of property owners listed on a deed the right to vote in Town elections.

At the workshop there was a consensus to try to eliminate trusts from the restrictions applied to an "LLC" and allow spouses of trusts to vote. It was decided by Town Council to delay the first reading and refer discussion back to the Ad Hoc Election Committee.

Vicki Carmean stated that the term "spouses" may need a clarification of whether it needs to have a broader definition.

Discussion continued on whether to permit an artificial entity to designate a representative who could be eligible to become a candidate for Town Council. Lynn Andrews suggested eliminating any LLC from candidate eligibility.

Vicki Carmean suggested finding a way to allow LLC's that own residential property candidate eligibility while prohibiting LLC's that own commercial property candidate eligibility and pointed out that Fenwick Island is the only Town in Delaware to allow an LLC to vote in local elections.

Town Manager Terry Tieman stated this should be a question for the Town attorney since prohibiting certain artificial entities may be considered discriminatory.

Mrs. Lee stated she would be in favor of limiting the number of property owners on a given deed the right to vote to no more than four owners.

She also stated she would invite Mayor Langan to the next meet scheduled for March 23, 2017 so that these considerations can be explained to him and ask that he request the Charter & Ordinance Committee discuss such changes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Vicki Carmean made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynn Andrews. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.