

Fenwick Island Environmental Committee (FIEC) Meeting

May 25, 2017

Committee Members Present: Buzz Henefin, Betsy Henefin, Colleen Wilson, David Van Kavelaar, Mary Ellen Langan, Alex Daly, Roy Williams

Town Representatives in Attendance: Town Manager Terry Tieman, Pat Schuchman

Guests: None

Call to Order: Colleen called the meeting to order at 2:37 and the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken by all.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 13, 2017 were emailed to FIEC members for comments, errors, and corrections on April 15. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the April 13, 2017 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes as prepared.

Earth Day Recap: Colleen thanked all for their time and effort directed toward our second, and successful, Earth Day held last month. Colleen submitted a letter to the Coastal Point stating the committee's thanks for all who participated in the event. Local businesses were recognized for their contributions to the April 22nd clean up. Those businesses were: One Coastal, Fenwick Surf Shop, Oceanside Pizzeria, Surf's Edge Deli, Holly's Treasure Chest, Southern Exposure, Sea Shell City, Warren's Station, Ropewalk Fenwick, and McCabe's Gourmet Market.

Mary Ellen expressed her grateful thanks to Colleen for her outstanding leadership of the FIEC during her (Mary Ellen's) period of recovery. Colleen consistently checked up on the Mary Ellen and prepared meals for them while Mary Ellen and Gene were navigating the road back to Mary Ellen's health. We are all happy for the Langans and proud of Colleen for her display of caring concern for a friend and neighbor.

Asked if the committee had any suggestions on improving the Earth Day observation, it was recommended to hold the event on the Saturday closest to April 22nd. Also, it was observed that the 3' by 8' Earth Day banner wasn't as large as we thought so, in order to improve the sign's visibility, a larger sign with a more "splashy" color was suggested. The FIEC will inquire about upgrading our banner with Phillip's Signs and Roger's Graphics.

Canals: Alex recently attended a budget committee. Some concerns brought up were the DNREC's posture in actually keeping FI channels open and the complexity of obtaining permits prior to dredging. In summary, Alex's report shows the estimates for the review of existing data with DNREC and USACE (Army Corps of Engineers) to be \$3,589, the planning and engineering phase to be \$13,463, and the cost for personnel to attend meetings and apply for dredging permits is estimated to be \$9,243. Town Manager Tieman stated the town will file a grant request to DNREC for \$40,000 with FI's 30% match (\$12,000) to contribute to the dredging project. So, in review, the cost of these three preliminary steps required before the onset of any hydrographic survey is \$26,295 and the total cost of \$49,995 (hydrographic survey of \$21,500 and \$2,200 for volume of sediment removal analysis) is estimated before any dredging is initiated.

Pine Wilt: The town is now showing a much improved reduction in observed pine wilt distress in trees. In the event pine wilt is seen, remind that property owner of the disease's negative impact on surrounding trees. The discussion of pine wilt should be kept alive in town newsletters.

New Business: The government is again contemplating seismic testing off Delaware's coast line. Be vigilant as to any meetings scheduled concerning this issue. Maryland is pursuing the establishment of two wind farms, one off the coast of Ocean City and one off Delaware's coast line. These farms are traditionally ten to sixteen miles off shore. Senator Carper sent a letter of opposition to Deep Water Wind but there have been substantial discussions between Delaware and US Wind.

We are happy that Mary Ellen is back to good health and will be again chairing the FIEC. Kudos to Colleen for assuming the chair responsibilities during Mary Ellen's recuperation.

The next meeting of the FIEC is scheduled for September, 2017. Mary Ellen will provide a date later and has encouraged members to stay in touch with each other over the summer.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17.

Respectfully submitted,

David Van Kavelaar