

Fenwick Island Environmental Committee (FIEC) Meeting

October 5, 2017

Committee Members Present: Buzz Henifin, Colleen Wilson, David Van Kavelaar, Mary Ellen Langan, Alex Daly, Roy Williams, Virginia Childers-Davidson

Town Representatives in Attendance: Town Manager Terry Tieman, Linda Martin

Guests: None

Call to Order: Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 2:34 and the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken by all.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 2017 were emailed to FIEC members for comments, errors, and corrections on May 29. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the May 25, 2017 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes as prepared.

Senator Carper: Mary Ellen attended a meeting on August 22 in Bethany Beach with Senator Carper present. Mr. Carper is a member of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee. Discussions addressed wind energy and the President's push for seismic testing off the coast of Sussex County. It was mentioned that the wind turbine at the University of Delaware's marine studies complex in Lewes is powered by the one turbine and sells excess energy back to the energy "pool". Delaware's governmental posture concerning these topics is favorable in harnessing wind energy but is not a proponent of commencing with seismic testing.

Dredging: It was suggested by the DNREC Secretary that Fenwick citizens write letters of concern as to the dredging of FI channels and the Assawoman Bay. Letters should objectively spell out the problem and provide as much information as possible to make the decision making process easier for our elected officials. Alex has prepared such a letter and plans on mailing it to Senator Hocker and others this week.

Diseased Trees: Unfortunately, the pine wilt disease is still present mostly in the northern parts of town. The disease is prevalent in the state property north of town and is spreading to the south. There are many trees now in town that must be taken down and disposed of. Mary Ellen asked us to relay to her any address where the tree disease is observed. She is rewording the pine wilt letter previously sent to addresses with affected trees and hopes that citizen's will take down and remove their diseased trees without the FIEC recommending an ordinance for mandatory diseased tree removal.

Earth Day: Fenwick Island will observe Earth Day on Saturday, April 21, 2018. One suggestion was to plant dune grasses concurrently with future beach cleanup or upon the completion of the beach replenishment scheduled for this coming winter.

Application to Serve: Forms were distributed to committee members regarding the individual's desire to serve on the environmental committee for the coming year.

The next meeting of the FIEC is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Van Kavelaar