



The Town of Fenwick Island

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PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 18, 2017 AT 10:30 AM

MINUTES

In Attendance

Vicki Carmean, Gardner Bunting, Gene Langan, Mary Ellen Langan, Richard Mais, Bernie Merritt, Terry Tieman, Bill Weistling

Others in Attendance

Representative Ron Gray, DeIDOT Representative Maria Andaya and Anthony Aglio

Vicki called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Approval of Minutes

Vicki asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting.

First – Bernie.

Second – Bill.

Minutes approved.

Discussion with DeIDOT

Anthony informed the Committee that DeIDOT is setting up a fund of \$70,000 for a digital survey and bringing an engineering contractor on board. As for construction funding for the sidewalk project, it is not available at this time but Anthony will work with the Town on applying for grants in a few years to help out with the costs. The project will be done in phases.

Maria added that DeIDOT is revisiting the previous studies done and she has been working with the Development Coordination section of DeIDOT to support the sidewalk.

Anthony is hesitant on putting the sidewalks right on the curb and would like at least a 2' buffer area between the sidewalk and the street. Anthony stated that since the DART bus stops are extending through Fenwick Island to Ocean City, the current bike lane will most likely disappear, which makes sidewalks even more of a priority. He is concerned, however, about several businesses that are encroaching the public right of way and the difficulty of installing sidewalks at those businesses.

Richard commented that recently at the Business Development meeting, the Committee met with business owners and told them about the sidewalks. Surprisingly, there were no push backs from the attendees. Bill stated that he is aware of 1-2 properties that will be affected, but if they switch to diagonal parking, it should not be a problem. Vicki added if the Town could also enforce owners to change the parking formation to one way in and one way out, the traffic flow could help with any parking problems.

Terry added that we should let the businesses know that lack of sidewalks in Town is a safety issue as well as an economic issue. Vicki commented that the Town code states if a building is demolished over 50%, business property owners are required to install a sidewalk in front of the business. She also added that everyone at the Business Development meeting was positive about the sidewalk project, especially the safety function.

Bill questioned the time frame on completing the survey. Anthony responded that he will contact the DelDOT consultant, Century Engineering, to see when they can complete the survey, but he is hoping early in 2018.

Maria asked if the Town has any common parking lots that could be offered for the parking situation. Vicki responded possibly 1-2 spots, and the side parking area at some businesses could be utilized, or people could go to another parking lot and walk over to a business if no parking spaces are available.

Vicki gave a recap of what was discussed: \$70,000 has been set aside for surveying and a planner/engineer. Anthony commented that if the survey is under \$70,000, we could use the additional money for the project. Terry stated the next step after the surveying is obtaining funding. Anthony confirmed that after surveying, then DelDOT will have a better idea on the cost of the project. He will look into Federal funding to help with the project.

Vicki commented that the major expense will be with moving the poles. Anthony stated that hopefully DelDOT can work around them instead of removing the poles. Vicki asked if the 7' buffer area is still needed. Anthony responded yes. Vicki then noted that the one hotel does not have 7', and Anthony said he will work with that issue to be close to 7' as possible.

Terry questioned the time frame to complete the project. Anthony responded within 3-5 years. Vicki commented that with DART setting up the new service line it is important the project get completed to access more buses. Richard asked if DART was requiring the use of the shoulder for the travel lane. Anthony responded that he wasn't sure.

Vicki asked Representative Gray if he had any thoughts on the sidewalk project. He responded not right now, but did question if DelDOT has any idea on the cost and if he should look into CAT funding. Anthony responded that he had no idea on the cost and would have to wait until the survey is done to see how many utility poles need to be moved.

Bill commented that the Committee will know more after the survey is completed. All Committee members are thrilled that a plan is in place and thanked Maria and Anthony for their work in pushing the Town sidewalk project. Richard thanked Vicki for leading the charge in having sidewalks installed.

Adjournment

Motion – Richard asked for a motion to adjourn.

Second – Mary Ellen.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.