



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017

Present: Reid Tingle, Virginia Childers-Davidson, Amy Vickers, Richard Mais, Lauren Weaver (Chamber), Terry Tieman (Town Manager), Pat Schuchman and Erin Ellinger (Town Staff)

Absent: Tim Collins

Public: Vickie Carmean (Town Council), Roy Williams (Town Council), Bill Weistling, Tom Sites (Fenwick Islander Motel)

Approval of Minutes:

Virginia Childers-Davidson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2017 meeting, seconded by Reid Tingle. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Mr. Tingle explained that during Tim Collins absence he will conduct the meeting. Councilmember Vickie Carmean had requested an opportunity to speak at the Business Development Committee meeting to update the business community on the progress of sidewalks in Town along the commercial zone.

Ms. Carmean explained the original "Sidewalk Committee" has been re-named the "Pedestrian Safety Committee" with an emphasis on walkability safety for residents and visitors to Town as well as a benefit to the business community and economic development.

Ms. Carmean presented a Power Point presentation which explained that Fenwick Island is the only Sussex County town with no connected sidewalk. In 2017 both she and Mayor Gene Langan ran for Town Council with a vision to bring sidewalks to Fenwick Island.

On August 18, 2017 Town Council met with DELDOT representatives to discuss funding for construction of sidewalks along the Commercial Zone. It is expected that this will happen in two phases, the first phase will be to construct sidewalks on the west side of Rt. 1 and then a second phase to construct sidewalks on the east side of Rt. 1.

Bill Weistling and Bernie Merritt conducted a parking analysis which was reviewed at the October Town Council meeting. Mr. Weistling stated that the Landmark Engineering survey done years ago was used as part of the analysis.

Although the Town does have some sidewalks along Rt. 1, most are not ADA compliant. The Bank of Ocean City is the only location with ADA compliant sidewalks.

According to Chief Boyden, there have been 31 car accidents along Rt. 1 over the last year, one with bodily injuries.

Both the Town and Sussex County have the construction of sidewalks in both of their Comprehensive Plans. The Town will look into both state and federal funding and will work with the business community during the planning process.

Mr. Weistling added that according to the original sidewalk plan from years ago, there were only a few businesses in Town whose number of parking spaces would be affected.

Although there is a specific criteria that DELDOT has with the size and location of sidewalks, they can be flexible and are willing to work with the various businesses affected by the construction of new sidewalks.



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Some concerns were expressed by some business owners present. Some alternatives which would allow businesses to keep existing number of parking spaces but, taken out of the State right-of-way along Rt. 1, could include angle parking and entry from one location and exit from another location on the commercial property.

Lauren Weaver suggested a survey for business owners and commercial property owners. Ms. Carmean agreed that input from the business community would be useful.

Ms. Carmean added that the federal fiscal year just began and is hoping to be able to secure a grant this year.

Mr. Weistling added that anyone is welcome to view the Landmark Engineering sidewalk plans at Town Hall.

Ms. Weaver proceeded onto the holiday themed initiative for December. The December Fenwick First Friday on December 1st will kick-off the promotion of participating businesses to "Find Freezy", a snowman placed somewhere visible in a business (similar to "Elf on the Shelf"). A bingo card will be supplied and anyone who finds the snowman gets a bingo square from that business. A card with bingo is a winner. The grand prize is awarded to the person with a full card.

The Bank of Ocean City donated the snowmen and those with bingo can collect their prizes at the January 1st Fenwick Freeze (need not be present to win). The Bank of Ocean City has also donated a \$150 gift card to the grand winner.

The "Annual Turkey Trot" will begin at 8:00 a.m., at Bunting Avenue and Lewes Street on Thanksgiving Day. Richard Mais stated that this is a huge community event enjoyed by all.

Terry Tieman showed the new Town seal to those present and is looking into purchasing a flag with the new seal. She will find out from the Town attorney if we can permit businesses access to the Town seal for their own.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting:

January 17, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Richard Mais made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Virginia Childers-Davidson. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.