

Fenwick Island Environmental Committee (FIEC) Meeting

April 5, 2018

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

Town Representatives Present: Gene Langan, Pat Schuchman, Linda Martin

Guests: Bernie Merritt

Call to Order: Colleen agreed to chair the proceedings at Mary Ellen's request and called the meeting to order at 3:30 and the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken by all.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 11, 2018 were approved as were the minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting.

New Business: The meeting agenda was modified and the progress of the dredging committee was brought to the attention of the FIEC. So to improve the possibility of attaining funding for future dredging operations, it was recommended by Chris Bason (of the Center for Inland Bays) to promote the necessity of dredging the bay and canals as an environmental project as the State has funding for such endeavors. Bernie Merritt did a presentation on the dredging committee's progress and stated that soil samples from the south end of the bay will be collected by John D. Hynes personnel and tested for pesticide, chlorinated herbicide, and heavy metal content. Based on the results of laboratory analyses, any dredged materials could be used as fill in the Route 54 area should the dredging project commence and the dredged spoils are free of heavy metals and other contaminants.

Mary Ellen brought up the topic of pending wind turbines off the Delaware coast line. We were provided with a copy of a power point presentation delivered by Bonnie Ram (University of Delaware) and Jame McCray (DE Sea Grant). The presentation showed U.S Offshore Wind Leases along the eastern seaboard. It has become apparent that Delaware is all in with striving for sustainable energy. A wind farm has been conceptualized fifteen miles offshore and it is the consensus of the FIEC that a wind farm is much more palatable than seismic testing.

Earth Day: The banner advertising our Earth Day festivities is now up on the Town Hall and it really stands out quite nicely! The banner should draw more attention to the event. In promoting the Earth Day event, Colleen has contacted the Wave, Coastal Point and has been interviewed by the Dispatch. Amy Kyle prepared an Earth Day notice in the FISH newsletter. Buzz will contact the CIB and MERR to see if they'd be interested in setting up a table to distribute info on their organization. Pat Schuchman and Terry Tieman will have information on flood protection and insurance. Debbie Pfeil (KCI Technologies) had stated that she would reach out to her environmental contacts to see if they would like to participate also. Richard Mais has again agreed to provide food for our Earth Day. It is planned that, on Friday afternoon (4/20), the tables will be set up in the Town Hall and preparations for Saturday's event will be finalized. FIEC members will arrive at 0800 on Saturday morning. Mary Ellen has assigned FIEC members to contact FI businesses to request their participation by providing drawing prizes and allowing Earth Day advertisements to be put up in their establishments. Subsequently, letters of appreciation will be sent to those businesses who contributed gifts and certificates for our participating volunteers. Also, a thank you letter will be sent to the above noted publications and all participating businesses in our Earth Day will be mentioned.

Old Business: The planting of dune grass occurred on March 17 and was limited to the state park's bath house area.

Mary Ellen thanked Colleen for conducting this month's FIEC meeting. The next meeting of the FIEC is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 2:30. Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22.

Respectfully submitted,

David Van Kavelaar