

Fenwick Island Environmental Committee (FIEC) Meeting

May 10, 2018

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

Town Representatives Present: Linda Martin

Guests: None

Call to Order: Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 3:30 and the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken by all.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 5, 2018 were approved as prepared.

Earth Day: This year's increase in citizen's participation to fifty folks surely indicates that the third Fenwick Island Earth Day was a pleasing success. The FIEC sent letters to those wonderful, civic minded businesses (that contributed door prizes for our drawing) to thank them for their generosity and community spirit. Those letters were also sent to the Coastal Point and Wave publications folks. The FIEC is grateful to these contributors of door prizes: Atlantic Shoals Surf Shop, Dirty Harry's, Fenwick Surf Shop, Finn Alley Restaurant, FINS (Fenwick Island Nautical Sportswear), Holly's Treasure Chest, Jimmy's Kitchen, Just Hooked, Karimali for Hair, KCI Technologies, Inc., Mancini's Brick Oven Pizzeria & Restaurant, McCabe's Gourmet Market, Ocean Side Pizzeria, Pottery Place, Sea Shell City, Seaside Country Store, Southern Exposure, Surf's Edge, the Flying Fish Café & Sushi Bar, and Warren's Station. The FIEC is extremely appreciative of Debbie Pfeil's (of KCI Technologies, Inc.) contribution of great ideas in planning this year's Earth Day and also delighted that she will be with us for next year's Earth Day to be held on April 20, 2019. Mary Ellen asked if there were any ideas for improving the event. One suggestion was to see if any group would participate in a tree planting ceremony and another idea was to provide games like ring toss on the town hall premises. Buzz asked if there was a photo taken of the day's production of pink bag accumulated trash and participants involved in trash pickup. Mary Ellen thanked the FIEC for our work and said if any good idea should arise as to improve Earth Day, bring it up at a future meeting.

Old Business: The FIEC has decided to help with emptying butt kits this summer. No assignments were given but FIEC members will check the butt kits intermittently. Brian will be asked if he'd be willing to de-butt the Park and Police Station. If so, the FIEC will address those butt kits from Atlantic to Lewes Streets. Mary Ellen said that (she heard) some diseased trees around town were taken down and disposed of by home owners.

New Business Virginia said that Fenwick Island is celebrating its birthday on July 1. It was also mentioned that the town Bon Fire is scheduled for July 7 and that it'd be a good idea to have a FIEC table set up at these two events where we can enlighten as to our group's purpose. The movie "Straws", a documentary "about plastic straw litter, the impacts, and how communities are making a sea of change one straw at a time", will be shown on Wednesday, June 13 (7-8:30 pm) at the Lewes Public Library. At the upcoming May 16 Business Development Committee meeting, the plastic straw issue will be presented in hopes of attracting the participation of business owners in the un-plastic drive. Finn Alley is not serving plastic straws and Warren's Station will provide a plastic straw on request only. Surfrider is group spearheading the drive to fight and possibly eliminate the usage of plastic straws. Virginia said Effie Wilson is being sought to speak on plastic straw usage.

In an article written by Dustyn Thompson entitled "Will 2018 Be The Year For Environmental Legislation In DE?", a bleak summary of Delaware's environmental problems is presented. Most of our waterways are chemically (called a dangerous compound" in the article) and/or biologically (bacteria) contaminated and, with the ongoing degradation of our ecosystem(s), Delaware will or already has lost 20% of its fish species, 31% of reptile species, 40% of plant species, and 50% of some bird populations. According to the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers), Delaware needs over \$400 million over the next 20 years to improve our water infrastructure. A small group of legislation has HB 270 in the pipeline that, if passed, would bring to the state hundreds of million dollars to be set

aside in a "locked" trust fund for water related infrastructure improvements. The monies would be raised by a \$45 annual fee paid by licensing renewals for businesses in the state and a \$40 a year fee per individual residing and paying taxes in Delaware.

The next meeting of the FIEC is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 2:30. Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,

David Van Kavelaar