



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE APRIL 12, 2018 AT 10:30 AM**

### **MINUTES**

#### In Attendance

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

#### Absent

Bernie Merritt

#### Others in Attendance

DelDOT Representatives Maria Andaya and Anthony Aglio

Vicki called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM.

#### Approval of Minutes

Vicki asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2017 meeting.

Anthony noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph should read a 2' buffer instead of 2' curb.

A motion was made by Bill, seconded by Gardner, to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2017 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Discussion with DelDOT

Maria informed the Committee that DelDOT met with its design consultant, Sentry Engineering, which will proceed with the study but would like the Town to make the community aware that sidewalks will be installed. Vicki responded that most businesses were informed at the last Business Development meeting and the only opposition received was from one business owner. Vicki will have Tim Collins, the Chairperson of the Business Development Committee, talk with the owner. Vicki noted that another possible objection would be from the Fenwick Islander Motel since it has a utility pole and several parking spaces in the front of the building that will be affected by a sidewalk.

Maria noted that the design consultant is concerned about community awareness due to the need for Temporary Construction Easements (TCE) and Permanent Easements (PE). Anthony added that the easements would only be needed during construction times. Vicki questioned if the construction would occur during the summer, and Anthony responded that the work would not happen during peak times due to the shoulders of the road possibly being used and DelDOT does not want to interfere with beach traffic.

Anthony commented that recent legislation is waiting for the Governor's signature that would give the State permission to access the easement area for sidewalks and bike paths/facilities. DelDOT is trying to encourage the concept that sidewalks are an important transportation method as well as an economic asset that will benefit Town properties. He also commented that the less PE's needed, the less work and money will be needed for sidewalks.

Bill questioned the impact of 1 or 2 businesses refusing sidewalk installation: would their opposition affect the entire project? Anthony responded that the project will be done strategically – either where needed or where a property owner is in favor of a sidewalk being installed. He added that in some cases instead of sidewalks, a pedestrian access route could be painted into the parking area (like in front of Town Hall). Anthony commented that Pedestrian Accessibility Standards now need to be met. Terry stated that for safety reasons, anything would be better than nothing. Vicki added that she would hate for the project to be held up because of opposition from 1 or 2 properties.

Anthony stated that due to funding limitation, the project will need to be done in phases. Maria added that after meeting with their consultant, who processed the financial side of the project, it was determined that the Town would be required to contribute 20% (\$14,000) towards the study. She also noted that DelDOT is contributing the remaining \$56,000 and will work with the Town on promoting the project by hosting a public workshop with pictures and phase plans for the public to view.

Vicki asked if both sides of Route 1 will have sidewalks installed. Anthony responded yes, and after the first phase area is selected, he will know the cost. Terry added that she will contact Senator Hocker and Representative Gray for possible aid in funding the study.

Bill questioned when Sentry Engineering plans to start the study. Maria responded as soon as the agreement is executed. Anthony added that hopefully the study can be completed within the next 1-2 months; phase 1 of the project could be completed within the next year.

Vicki asked if it is better to have the study completed before having a public workshop. Anthony responded that it would be helpful; he would like to form a working group with local advocates and DART to promote the project to the public.

Maria asked the Committee what 3-4 blocks should be done first. Richard responded that without looking at the study he wasn't sure due to the temporary and permanent easement issue discussed earlier in the meeting. Bill suggested picking the easiest areas first, such as Warren's Station and the condo area on the bay side. Vicki suggested starting with the north end of the Town, but feels that St. Matthew's and Holly's could be an issue. When Maria questioned if the priority should be the bay side of Town, Terry responded yes.

Bill questioned if the unincorporated streets should be included in the project when the ocean side is done. Richard responded yes, due to the population density in that area. Terry added that the Town will contact Sussex County for an economic partnership when DelDOT begins that phase of the project.

Bill questioned whether the project will actually take place this time since 2 studies have been completed in the past with no follow thru. Maria responded that DelDOT is fully on board with the