

Fenwick Island Environmental Committee

October 16, 2018

**Committee Members Present:** Mary Ellen Langan, Virginia Childers-Davidson, Sally Craig, Betsy Henifin, Buzz Henifin, Roy Williams, Colleen Wilson

**Town Representatives Present:** Pat Schuchman, Linda Martin

**Call to Order:** Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 10:30 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the August 9, 2018 meeting were approved.

**Need for Secretary:** The committee agreed to rotate the role of secretary at each meeting.

**Use of Plastic Straws in Fenwick:** A packet of information on plastic straw usage from Plastic Free Delaware was discussed. Mary Ellen will contact this organization to see if their logo (Skip The Straw; Save A Sea Turtle with graphic) can be used for distribution to local restaurants.

**Coastal Cleanup:** The entire Fenwick Island beach was covered during this event on September 22, 2018. The cleanup yielded 672 plastic pieces, 324 plastic caps, and 225 food wrappers in addition to many other items.

**Sea Level Rise:** Concern about recent flooding events on the bayside of Fenwick was expressed. Our committee is in a position to raise awareness about sea level rise. One idea is to ask several year-round bayside residents to keep track of flooding events over time. The Henefins agreed to monitor flooding at their residence. The Madison Avenue tide gauge could be compared with the Indian River tide gauge for additional information. Buzz recalled that the road had been raised on Dagsboro which seemed to improve drainage and flooding issues.

Pat Schuchman located Sea Level Rise charts for the Town of Fenwick Island that show how much of the Town will be under water at various water rise levels. The committee suggested posting these charts in Town Hall to increase awareness of this issue.

**Old Business:** Virginia will empty the cigarette butt containers from Atlantic to Dagsboro Streets.

**New Business:** The Coastal Communities Partnership study, sponsored by the Association of Coastal Towns (ACT), is gathering data and mapping changes in impervious surfaces along the coastal towns. The results of this study will be presented during the Fenwick Island Earth Day event in April 2019. This effort is part of the RASCL (Resilient Communities) grant and involves Debbie Pfiel of KCI Technologies, the Environmental and Dredging Committees along with the Town Council.

Pat reported that Fenwick has an ordinance that limits any increase in impervious surfaces during construction/renovations of businesses and residences. She feels we may be ahead of other local towns on this issue.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 10:30 am

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:27am

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen L. Wilson