



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE JUNE 11, 2019 AT 9:30 AM**

### **MINUTES**

#### In Attendance

Vicki Carmean, Gene Langan, Julie Lee, Richard Mais, Terry Tieman, Bill Weistling, Lauren Weaver, Colleen Wilson

#### Absent

Gardner Bunting, Kimberly Flynn, Bernie Merritt

Vicki called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bill, seconded by Colleen, to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Discussion

Vicki noted the several meetings held over the last 2 years as well as the workshop that was held in regards to sidewalks. DeIDOT has also hosted meetings on ADA compliance, which is an issue with the lack of sidewalks in town.

Terry commented that she has spoken to Senator Hocker and Representative Gray for funding for the project with the bond bill.

Kercher Engineering provided a cost estimate of \$358,000 (\$6-\$7 per square foot). Bill noted that they foresee no problems on the west side. He added that we need to get support from the businesses since some transitioning of parking lots will be needed. During their initial report, Kercher Engineering placed the 5' wide sidewalks directly up to the curb instead of the 2' buffer area that DeIDOT had on their plans. Richard noted that this style is more consistent with other existing sidewalks.

Bill commented that we need to get the businesses on board, especially with some of the business signs that may need to be moved to accommodate for the sidewalk installation. Lauren added that at the workshop the engineer suggested where the signs could be moved and there would be no loss of parking spaces.

Richard questioned if we are to receive \$500,000 from the bond bill, how many blocks could be completed. Bill responded 5-6 blocks, which would include from Pottery Place down through to Dagsboro Street.

Vicki noted that further south on the west side we would need to install retaining walls, move poles, and reconfigure parking. Bill noted that Mike Biaco from Kercher Engineering stated that some retaining walls are now pre-casted, so a foundation may not be needed.

Terry commented that Representative Gray is pushing for the funding in the bond bill, but if it is not approved, she suggested that a meeting be conducted with Secretary Cohan, with Senator Hocker and Representative Gray also in attendance. She is aware that Representative Gray is a huge supporter of sidewalks and commented that he wants them down Route 54 as well.

Vicki confirmed the strategy: wait to see if we receive the bond bill and if not, contact Secretary Cohan to set up a meeting. Gene suggested also hiring a lobbyist to help with support for sidewalks. Bill commented that he is concerned about the money in hiring the lobbyist, to which Gene replied, that the Town would put a cap on it. Julie added that with the budget, we would need to be careful on how we approach funding.

A motion was made by Richard, seconded by Bill, to have Town Council pursue a lobbyist. The motion passed unanimously.

Lauren asked when the project would begin if the bond bill is received. Terry responded that it would begin in the Fall. Bill added that once the bond bill is approved (on or about July 1<sup>st</sup>), Kercher Engineering can begin the construction plans and then we can get the businesses involved. Vicki commented that we could have another workshop for community input. Lauren stated that as long as we let the business community know that there will be no extra expenses and that signs will be grandfathered in.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 9, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Richard, seconded by Bill, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM.