

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
July 12, 2016; 3:00 PM

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
- II. **FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published, and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

III. **Roll Call:**

Present: Mary Johnson
David Elliott
Jim Chitwood
Lynne Sager
Jim Sullivan
Lynette Schroeder
John Leffler

KICA: Matt Hill
KIGR: Liz King
KINHC: Justin Core
TOKI: Jim Jordan
Aaron Given

Absent: Marilyn Olson
Jane Ellis
Sandra Williams
Robert Simmons

ARB: Amanda Mole
KICA: Dave Achey
KINHC: Jack Kotz

IV. **Approval of Minutes:**

- A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2016

Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliott and was unanimously approved as amended.

V. **Presentations**

- A. Presentation by Engaging Creative Minds

Mrs. Johnson gave a brief outline of the reasoning behind the development of a process to review and budget for the funding projects through the Environmental Committee. The Town Biologists have expressed their desire to fund projects in the schools as well as in the Community. The Engaging Creative Minds organizations, having received Town funding for their work in local schools, would be a great source to partner with in development of programs.

Ms. Robin Berlinsky, Executive Director of Engaging Creative Minds, gave an overview of their organization and the programs offered. She indicated the organization had completed its third year of working in schools with the completion of the summer camp program. She explained some of the ongoing programs and the work they do to help support teachers to provide additional learning resources and experiences for their students.

VI. Old Business

A. Bobcat GPS Study Update

Mr. Jordan reviewed the latest statics on the 2016 BOBCAT GPS PROJECT by stating;

- 5 collars (3 females, 2 males) deployed
- 3 bobcat dens found
 - ❖ March 30 – Bobcat 200 had two 10-day old female kittens near Beachwalker County Park
 - ❖ April 12 – Bobcat 350 had two 10-day old male kittens on Ruddy Duck Court
 - ❖ May 12 – Bobcat 250 had three 3-week old female kittens in the dunes along Flyway Drive with more than 150,000 people viewing the Town Facebook post on this den

B. Alligator Research Project

Mr. Jordan stated the alligator research project that was to begin in the spring has been put on hold. Meeting will take place to better organize and to insure that proper protocols are in place before beginning in the fall. He also noted and explained the additional components which have been added to the research with funding from the Conservancy.

Mr. Jordan explained that due to current events, there had been an increase in nuisance alligator calls in the last few weeks. The seven alligators that have been removed to date (1 by SCDNR) was the most removed in the past 20 years. He indicated the increase was mainly due to the public fear after current events and alligators losing their fear of humans after being feed.

Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the areas on the Island where alligators have been sighted and ideas on the development of signage which would be heeded by the public. Mr. Jordan indicated meetings have taken place with Community Association staff to discuss alligator protocol, updating signage, nuisance gator policy, education, and enforcement issues.

C. Budget Subcommittee Report - Funding Guidelines and Process Recommendation

Mrs. Johnson presented the final revision of the Funding Guidelines and Process Recommendation developed by the Budget Subcommittee. She stated the focus of the recommendation was to provide project planning and a funding application process. Applications are reviewed by the Committee and recommendation for approval during the Town's annual budgeting process.

Mr. Chitwood made a motion to accept the Funding Guidelines and Process. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sager and unanimously passed.

VII. New Business

A. Marsh Sparrow Research Update

Mr. Given stated there was no update to the report given in May, with the exception of a Sparrow fitted with a transmitter that was tracked from Kiawah through North Carolina, New Jersey, and lastly in Connecticut.

Mr. Given reported on a project he will be working on this winter in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The project entails the purchase of GPS tags to put on non-migratory Seaside Sparrows to monitor for possible endangered species status.

VIII. Reports:

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Given reviewed his report:

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Annual survey of breeding bird numbers and distribution on the Island.
Survey work was conducted for 10 days during May
4,266 individuals were detected of 80 different species.

PAINTED BUNTING BANDING PROJECT

Eighteen property owners have volunteered to allow Painted Buntings to be captured at their homes to date.
Four homes have been visited so far.
Twenty-nine Painted Buntings captured, plus six individuals of other species.

WILSON'S PLOVER FLAGGING

6 Wilson's Plovers were flagged in May 2016.
We will try for more this summer and fall. Of the 15 birds that were flagged in 2015, 9 have been re-sighted this year.

FALL MIGRATION MONITORING

In the process of hiring seven bird-banding assistants, 191 applications were received.

Mrs. Sager reported **TURTLE PATROL** nesting patrol activities began on Monday, May 9th. To date there are 254 nests, 37 higher than last year to date. She indicated the first nest was at the end of the 50 to 60 day incubation period but had not hatched yet. Mr. Jordan stated that to date there had been no coyote predation, Mrs. Sager adding that no screening of the nest was currently being required. She also reported ongoing participation in the eggshell and yoke study of one egg from each nests.

Mr. Jordan reviewed his report:

CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL GROUP

Coordinated by the Kiawah Conservancy at Cinder Creek Pavilion on May 26th. Town Biologists participated and discussed bobcat research, bird banding, and other wildlife topics with 41 fifth and sixth grade students.

BULLS BAY NATURE FESTIVAL

Aaron Given conducted a Bird Banding Demonstration for 20 participants on May 21st as part of the Bulls Bay Nature Festival.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV

Kiawah was prominently featured in 2 episodes of the “United States of Animals” series that recently aired nationally and internationally on Nat Geo Wild. Filming took place during December 2014. The show highlights unique and attractive nature travel destinations around the United States.

- “Turkey Gangs of New York” – Highlighted Kiawah’s bobcats and their importance to the Island. Featured interviews with Jim Jordan, Liz King (Resort), and Kiawah naturalists.
- “Rocky Mountain High” – Highlighted Kiawah’s dolphins and their unique strand feeding behavior.

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Hill stated in addition to the earlier alligator discussion, he noted sighting of wild turkeys having nested on the Island.

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King reported that in response to the current alligator events, the Resort has identified areas on all the golf courses where it has been determined additional alligator signage is needed, is giving information to golfers and posting additional informational and warning signage on Resort properties.

She also reported on new signs at the Nature Center including information on Loggerhead Sea turtles.

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

None

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Core reported that in response to their current alligator discussions the Conservancy was also including additional information on their website.

F. Turtle Patrol

IX. Correspondence:

None

X. Citizen Comments:

The citizen’s comment was inaudible

XI. Chairman’s Comments:

Mrs. Johnson stated she had no additional comment; the next meeting would be in September.

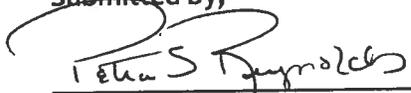
XII. Committee Member Comments:

None

XIII. Adjournment:

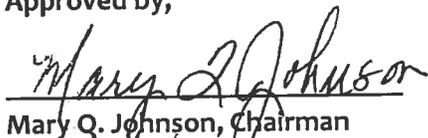
Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliott and unanimously passed.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Mary Q. Johnson, Chairman

Date

9/15/14