

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
September 19, 2017; 3:00 PM

Minutes

I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. **Roll Call:**

Present: Jim Jordan, Chairman
Marilyn Olson
Lynne Sager
Lynette Schroeder
Sandra Williams
John Leffler
ARB: Amanda Mole
KICA: Matt Hill
KIGR: Liz King
KINHC: Jack Kotz
TOKI: Aaron Given

Absent: David Elliott
Jim Chitwood
Jim Sullivan
Jane Ellis
Robert Simmons

KINHC: Justin Core

Also Present: Diana Mezzanotte, Council Liaison

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2017

Mrs. Sager made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2017 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kotz and was unanimously approved as amended.

B. Special Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2017

Mrs. Sager made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2017 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Given and was unanimously approved.

IV. **Reports:**

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan reviewed his report:

- ✦ **Alligator Research**
 - 13 fall 2016
 - 27 alligators captured – 5 fitted with GPS
 - 13 females (2 GPS)

- 14 males (3 GPS) – one tag not working
- 4 GPS tags currently working

Mr. Jordan demonstrated the alligator GPS monitoring system on the Town's Wildlife website pointing out the different paths the tagged alligators have been traveling.

⚡ **Bobcat GPS Study**

- Adult female collared August 26 at Captain Sam's Spit
 - 14 lbs, 1 oz
 - Collared 2014-2016
- 3 working collars

Mr. Given reviewed his report:

⚡ **Fall Migration**

- August 15 – November 30
- 6 technicians

He reported work on the fall Migration was going on at Captain Sam's Spit with a total of 1007 birds caught, of which 152 were recaptures and 47 different species with over half the birds caught in the last four days. At Little Bear at total of 787 birds were captured, of which 129 were recaptures.

Mr. Jordan demonstrated Mr. Given's Fall Banding Blog on the Town's Wildlife website.

⚡ **Beach**

- Significant erosion
- 8-25 feet beyond Matthew line
- Debris cleanup almost complete
- Investigation options for beach repairs

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

None

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King reported the school Outreach programs funded by the Environmental Committee has begun with visits to the classes to review curriculum and the first class coming to Kiawah on Thursday with sessions at Beachwalker County Park and Mingo.

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

None

E. Kiawah Conservancy

None

F. Turtle Patrol

Mrs. Sager indicated there were many inquiries on how many turtle nests were lost during the storm. She stated that 96 nests are logged in as lost. Of those 37 were beyond 70 days, the hatches were missed and were not able to be inventoried. She reported that of the 96 nests

60 were mid-beach and those that were inventoried pre-storm were disastrous. The nests were wet with more unhatched than hatched eggs with hatchlings that were drowned. Mrs. Sager reported that despite a prediction of a lower beach success rate, there were a total of 333 nests, just short of last year's total of 354 nests. Members discussed making a request to move nests higher into the dunes.

V. Old Business

A. Sea Level Rise

Mr. Leffler reported that he and Mrs. Mezzanotte met with Dr. Leslie Sautter, a marine geologist at The College of Charleston. The Subcommittee will have a video conference with the authors of "The Union of Concerned Scientists". They also met with Mr. Norm Levine with the College of Charleston who does high level elevation mapping of Charleston and works with Charleston County on management and planning for rising water.

VI. New Business

A. Beach Erosion Discussion

Mr. Jordan stated that following his initial post storm inspection he was surprised that it was not as bad as he had expected it to be with the massive storm surge and high waves. He indicated the beach held up fairly well noting that there was significant erosion in some areas, the most occurring at the ends of the island. He stated that it was his belief that a large percentage of the eroded sand is still in the active beach system and should allow for rapid accretion.

Mr. Jordan presented a map of the GPS survey showing the linear movement of the dune line after the recent storms. He pointed out in the area near the Ocean Course where the dike was constructed across the tidal inlet in 2015, went from a width of 120 feet wide to 15 feet wide but was still intact and also pointed out other inlets which formed following the storms. Mr. Jordan indicated the beach at this time is comparable to what the beach looked like 15 years ago.

Mr. Jordan indicated a preliminary evaluation of the data has been done to locate any potential problem areas and what the Town's is able to do to fix them.

- The Timbers – section with almost no dune
- Eugenia Avenue area
- Turtle Point Golf Course
- Ocean Course – holes 15 & 16, and the Ocean Course – Hole 18 Green, Practice Green and Driving Range
- Beach Club

In the areas in which the water is getting within 20 foot of structure or infrastructure there two state issued emergency orders which allow for beach scraping and minor beach renourishment. The only areas which qualify under these emergency orders are Turtle Point Golf Course - Holes 15 & 16, Ocean Course – holes 15 & 16, and the Ocean Course – Hole 18 and the Practice Range.

Mr. Jordan gave a brief description and cost of beach scraping, where at low tide, sand will be moved so dune can be reconstructed at the selected location at a cost of approximately \$3.50 per yard vs beach renourishment where new compatible sand is brought in from off-island sources at a cost of approximately \$10.00 to \$20.00 per yard.

Discussion included waiting until the storm season is over before taking action, waiting to make repairs to public boardwalks until the renourishment is done, and making sure that the message to home owners on making repairs to their private boardwalks are consistent.

B. Beach Walkover Discussion

Mr. Jordan presented a preliminary draft of a potential new ordinance to revise Section 16-406 on Beach Walkovers. He noted the section had been completely rewritten by the Building Department and asked for the Committee's feedback.

Mr. Jordan reviewed a summary of the new ordinance:

- Boardwalks are now divided into 2 categories:
 - Private beach walkovers: those serving private residences.
 - Community beach walkovers: those serving regimes, clubs, associations, commercial entities, or the general public intended to provide high volume access to the beach
- Defines Active beach: the area seaward of the escarpment or the first line of stable vegetation, whichever first occurs, measured from the ocean landward
- All existing Beach Walkovers in disrepair – Owner must submit remediation plans within 30 days. Owner has an additional 60 days after plan approval to complete work.
- All Existing Beach Walkovers extending more than 10 feet onto beach. Owner must submit remediation plans to the ARB within 30 days. Owner has an additional 60 days after plan approval to complete work.
- Community Beach Walkovers – Existing Beach Walkovers that terminate landward of the primary dune that result in the destruction of dune vegetation. Owners must submit remediation plans to the ARB within 30 days. Owner has an additional 120 days after plan approval to complete work.
- Exception – Community Beach Walkover owner can appeal a violation to the Building Department within 30 days of receiving notice to receive an extension for extenuating circumstances.

Committee members engaged in an in-depth discussion of having a one year moratorium on private beach walkovers or boardwalks and using footpaths.

Mr. Jordan asked member to review the revisions and to send him any comments, concerns or suggestions.

VII. Citizen Comments:
None

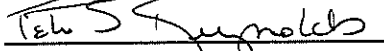
VIII. Chairman's Comments:
None

IX. Committee Member Comments:
None

X. Adjournment:

Mrs. Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:24. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sager and unanimously passed.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

1-19-18

Date