

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Environment & Wildlife Committee Regular Meeting
March 10, 2022



Virtual Meeting Hosted via Zoom
[Live Streamed on YouTube](#)

MINUTES

Members Present: Jeri Finke (Chair), Mark Andrews, Martha Goldstein, Dean Morr, Patti Romano

Members Absent: None.

Guests Present: None.

Chairwoman Finke called the meeting to order at 1 PM. Chairwoman Finke confirmed that the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act were fulfilled, and the meeting agenda was properly posted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Dean Morr moved to approve the minutes from the February 10 meeting and Mark Andrews seconded with 2 minor adjustments.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Continuing discussion regarding possible changes to the Town of Seabrook Island Beach Ordinance: Jeri will be working with Joe Cronin to suggest amendments to the ordinance. This committee will look more closely at the terminology used so that enforcement of the ordinance will be clear.

Fishing on the Beach

Topics addressed: how similar jurisdictions are addressing beach fishing, any prohibitions on beach fishing and/or designated swim zones, how the term "being in immediate attendance" to fishing poles translates, defining specified fishing zones that could be moveable, limiting number of poles per fisherman, possibility of including language used in SCDNR fishing license.

Joe Cronin commented if fishing poles/equipment represent a safety hazard to others on the beach, the owners must be present to take immediate possession and control of the equipment to remove the hazard.

Dean asked about Town of Seabrook restrictions on creek and marsh fishing. Jeri responded that we do not yet have a Town Marsh and Wetlands policy, but is willing to visit this topic

after beach ordinance is revised. Jeri mentioned Folly Beach's Marsh and Wetlands policy which we can review at the next meeting or individually at cityoffollybeach.com.

Mark raised a question regarding fishing at Captain Sam's inlet. Currently there is no fishing two hours before or after low tide and/or if there are one or more dolphins present in the inlet. Swimming is prohibited in the inlet.

Parasails and Other Crafts

Discussion ensued over the use of parasails, motorized parasails, drones, stunt kites, other hobby aircraft. Kiawah currently prohibits all parasailing operations within town limits.

Plastics/Balloons/Styrofoam

Should our ordinance be expanded to no "single use" plastics on the beach? Should we ban all Styrofoam, single-use straws, plastic and mylar balloons? All agreed the need to strengthen restrictions on many, if not all, of these items. (Note: Last summer the Coast is Clean Initiative was launched by Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Folly Beach communities in partnership with Explore Charleston, to remind visitors to protect the region's precious assets and promote a healthy environment for all who visit and live there.)

Can we publicize Seabrook Island's single use plastic ban in the Tidelines mentioning that the committee is working on this?

Beach Cleanup Days

Is there a need for designated beach cleanup days? Martha commented that regular Seabrook beach goers habitually pick up all kinds of trash, including plastic, glass, cigarette butts, etc., and all agreed that they themselves, and many others do the same. Perhaps this will set an example for newcomers.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

1. Seabrook island Town Ordinance Commercial Activities on the beach

The current ordinance prohibits commercial activity on the beach; Town Hall has been receiving many requests for weddings on the beach. Consensus is to allow weddings on the beach, with commercial photographers requiring a permit.

A suggestion was made to add a "Permitting" section to the town ordinance, available online, which would stipulate all the rules for such services on the beach. This permitting section would include weddings, other celebrations, and memorial services so that the town is aware of such events. Joe Cronin suggested adding filming (movie, television) permits to that section.

Since Seabrook Island is a public beach, decorations or chairs would continue to be prohibited.

Tiers of permits were suggested depending on the number of event attendees, as well as allowing commercial photography activity that does not detract from the beach. In addition, Dean suggested the photographers be required to pay for a business license.

Jeri mentioned the use of lighted lanterns for memorial services and questioned whether this was a possible fire or safety hazard. Consensus was to prohibit lit lanterns because of possible fire hazard. Ash-spreading vessels, which are biodegradable, will be permitted to be released into the waters.

2. **Future Environmental and Wildlife Committee meetings:** Jeri asked if the committee wanted to continue with Zoom meetings or begin meeting in person. Consensus was to continue Zoom meetings.

There being no further business, [Mark Andrews] made a motion to adjourn the meeting. [Dean Morr] seconded the motion. The motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of [4 IN FAVOR] to [0 OPPOSED], and the meeting was adjourned at [2:21 PM].

Minutes Approved: