

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Environment & Wildlife Committee
Regular Meeting

[June 9, 2022] – [1 PM]

Virtual Meeting Hosted via Zoom

[Live Streamed on YouTube](#)



MINUTES

Members Present: Jeri Finke, Mark Andrews, Martha Goldstein, Dean Morr, Patti Romano]

Members Absent:

Guests Present:

Chairman Jeri Finke called the meeting to order at 1 PM].

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Regular Meeting:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Seabrook Island Shorebird Stewards:** Mark Andrews (co-chair of the Shorebird Stewards), recapped activity on the town beach from March 1 through June 1. Highlights of his report:
 - * Stewards trained 30 contributing a total of 140 hours.
 - * Stewards spoke with 634 beachgoers, who felt that contact with visitors was effective and positive.
 - * There are significantly less dogs on North Beach since new signage was erected. (19 dogs reduced to 4 sightings). Several of the No Dog signs were vandalized.
 - * Due to May 14-17 King tides, significant flooding of Wilson's Plover and Least Tern nests - the least terns did not re-nest after flooding.
 - * Commented that 40 percent of the total Atlantic Red Knot population passes through Seabrook-Kiawah in one season.
 - * Through 6/22/22 end of season, we talked to 746 people, 473 visitors (64%). 166 hours. Only one negative encounter for the season - teenage boys running though nesting area. Dogs remained at 4. Shorter season but similar numbers of people compared with 2021: 768/521 visitors (68%)

A community grant was used to purchase a new Shorebird Stewards tripod.

Chairman, Jeri Finke asked if additional signage or support is needed to further protect these shorebirds. Mark felt that continuing the educational component would continue to have a positive impact.

2. Seabrook Island Town Ordinance

Chairman Jeri Finke mentioned that current short term rental issues have been time consuming and have delayed presentation of changes/suggestions for beach ordinance revisions. She encouraged committee members during the next 4-6 weeks of peak season to be observant of beach goers and activities and jot down ideas for any ordinance revisions. Areas of concern mentioned:

- Fishing/no fishing areas/times
- No swimming at the inlet: How do we define the inlet and does it include the sandbar that is forming?
- No wake zone to protect the marine mammals

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

1. The Charleston County Greenbelt Program, adopted in 2006, has allocated 1/2 cent of sales tax to urban and rural greenbelt grants. The Town of Seabrook qualifies for an urban grant. The expected accumulation of funds for the Town Of Seabrook Island for this grant is approximately \$645,000. Possible applications of these funds could be land acquisition, footbridges/trails/linear parks and other land conservation that improves access to the land and appreciation of its ecological value.

Environmental and Wildlife Committee members are invited to join the June 15th, 2022 zoom meeting and to visit the Charleston County Greenbelt Program website.

A possible consideration might be the property on Haulover Creek behind the current Saveurs Du Monde cafe. Committee members were asked to consider other ideas as well. Patti Romano asked, on an ongoing basis, what funds would be used to maintain this greenbelt area. Dean Morr asked if perhaps the town could use the accommodation tax to maintain the park/land.

2. Marsh and Wetlands Policy

Dean Morr mentioned that the Town of Folly Beach has a marsh front management program. He questioned whether that is something the Town of Seabrook is interested in pursuing. Questions were raised as to how other communities such as Kiawah are addressing management.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Minutes Approved: August 11, 2022

Katharine Watkins