

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Environment & Wildlife Committee Regular Meeting
January 12, 2023 – 1:00 PM



Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

[Watch Live Stream \(YouTube\)](#)

Participate in the Meeting: Individuals who wish to participate in the meeting via Zoom may access the meeting as follows:

- [Instructions for Joining & Participating in the Virtual Meeting](#)
- **To join by computer, tablet or mobile device:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83361180106?pwd=TE0vUldpVjl5SVM3eldLekkvTDlaQT09>
- **To join by phone:** Call (646) 558-8656 *Please note that long distance rates may apply*
- **Meeting ID:** 836 6118 0106 **Passcode:** 661602

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Approval of Minutes for the November 10, 2022 meeting.

New Business

Briefing by Abby Sterling, PhD
Director of the Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative

Abby Sterling works for Manomet, a non-profit based in Massachusetts that uses science and partnerships to address coastal conservation challenges throughout the hemisphere. She is the director of Manomet's Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative, which focuses on sustaining shorebird populations within the Atlantic Flyway by increasing attention to the Southeast. By working with the stakeholders actively involved in shorebird conservation, identifying research and management objectives, building education and outreach efforts, and increasing partnerships, she hopes to achieve measurable progress for shorebird conservation along the South Carolina, Georgia and Northern Florida coasts. Abby earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia, where she studied how habitat and landscape features influence beach nesting shorebirds and chick survival. Prior to working on her degree, she lived on Little St. Simons Island, GA, where she worked as a naturalist guide and assisted on a variety of environmental projects. She currently lives in Brunswick, GA with her husband, her adorable new son, and her dog

Old Business

Availability of committee members for of a second January meeting to continue discussions about revisions to the beach ordinance.

Adjourn

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Environment & Wildlife Committee Regular Meeting
November 10, 2022



[Watch Live Stream \(YouTube\)](#)

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Jeri Finke (Chair), Mark Andrews, Martha Goldstein, Dean Morr
Absent: Patti Romano
Guests: Steve Hirsch (Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA)), Steven Traynum (Coastal Science & Engineering), Patrick Barrineau (Coastal Science & Engineering)
Staff Present: Joe Cronin (Town Administrator), Katharine Watkins (Town Clerk)

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- Environment and Wildlife Committee Meeting Regular Meeting Minutes - September 8, 2022

Mr. Morr moved to approve the previous meeting minutes; Mr. Andrews seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of September 8th were approved.

New Business

- Discussion – generally about how to appropriately, accurately, and legally define the SI beach and sand dunes -- with Steven Traynum and Patrick Barrineau of Coastal Science and Engineering (CSE). Steven was CSE's project manager for the 2015 Inlet Relocation project, and he has been meeting regularly with OCRM on one of its advisory panels which is updating definitions of the beach-dune system and jurisdictional lines. Patrick manages CSE's annual monitoring of the Island for the SIPOA. CSE was the consultant for the development of the Town's Comprehensive Beach Management Plan (posted on the Town's website.) Steve Hirsch from SIPOA will also attend.

Chairwoman Finke briefly summarized the current Comprehensive Beach Management Plan for the Town and opened discussion with Steve Hirsch, Director of Engineering from SIPOA, Steven Traynum and Patrick Barrineau from Coastal Science & Engineering.

A discussion was had on the various government agencies who have jurisdiction on the beach front and clarified definitions under state law for the beach, and primary dune system.

A clarification was made on jurisdiction on the beach with regards to the Town and SIPOA.

A discussion was had on how to define the beach within the beach ordinance from the Town.

A discussion was had on potentially using OCRM setback lines are generated every 10 years on the beach in Seabrook Island to designate the beach area, and how this could be an issue with regards to regulations.

A discussion was had on the SC Attorney General Opinion regarding property lines that now are located beyond the high-water mark.

A discussion was had on if the lagoon by Captain Sams Inlet would be included as beach if the vegetation definition was used.

A discussion on the relocation of Captain Sams Inlet regarding applications and if anything should be included in the ordinance for the relocation and coordination between the Town and SIPOA.

Mr. Traynum and Mr. Barrineau made recommendations on how to define the beach within the updated beach ordinance, suggesting the setback line was a logical consideration.

A discussion was had on the erosion and accretion by boardwalk five by Amberjack Court and constant movement of dry sand down the beach from that point.

A clarification was had on where the baseline, the critical, and high-tide water line on Seabrook Island could be applied to a beach ordinance.

A discussion was had on adding regulations within different regions of the beachfront/shoreline rather than using a general or single definition for the beach.

A clarification was had on if the lagoon will still be there when the relocation of Captain Sams Inlet occurs, and a timeline of when the inlet will be relocated.

A discussion was had with SIPOA on the armadillo issue on Seabrook Island.

Old Business

- General review of the direction of the committee and how to move projects forward.

Chairwoman Finke updated the committee on the timeline for the projects within the next couple of years and inquired on how the committee should proceed.

A discussion was had on moving forward with the creation of language for the beach ordinance.

A discussion was had on the SIPOA fire permits regarding their applications and the permit.

A discussion was had on the Marshfront Management Plans from the City of Folly Beach and the Town of Kiawah Island.

ADJOURN

Mr. Morr moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Goldstein seconded. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 2:14PM.

Date: November 10, 2022

Prepared by: *Katharine E. Watkins*
Town Clerk/Treasurer