

# Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

April 21, 2026 – 10:00 AM

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Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers  
2001 Seabrook Island Road  
Seabrook Island, SC 29455



## AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FOIA STATEMENT

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 17, 2026

Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

### PRESENTATIONS

Cellular Telephone Coverage on Seabrook Island

- David McClure, Apex Towers

Cellular Telephone Service and Fire/Rescue Operations

- Tim Pristatskiy, St. John's Fire District

### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Update and Discussion of Utilizing Off-Duty Sheriff's Deputies

Update and Discussion of Amendments to Chapter 32 (Beach Rules)

### COMMITTEE COMMENTS

### ADJOURNMENT

# Public Safety Committee

## Regular Meeting

March 17, 2026 – 10:00 AM

[View Meeting on YouTube](#)

Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers  
2001 Seabrook Island Road  
Seabrook Island, SC 29455



## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

### ROLL CALL

**Committee Members Present:** Darryl May, Chairman; Jill Boissonnault, Bruce Ludwin, Jim Sporn, and Mike Sankovich

**Town Staff Present:** Joe Cronin (Town Administrator) Tyler Newman (Planning and Zoning Director), and Peter Wiggins (Town Clerk).

### FOIA STATEMENT

The Town Clerk confirmed that the meeting was advertised in compliance with the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Agendas were posted and furnished to news media and all others requesting notification.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 17, 2026

*Mr. Sporn motioned to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, seconded by Mr. Ludwin.*

**Mr. Sporn's motion was APPROVED unanimously.**

### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

#### **Comprehensive Emergency Plan**

Chairman May reminded the committee that the completion of the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Plan is a priority for the Public Safety Committee. He stated the town is working with a consultant to facilitate the rewriting of the plan. Chairman May closed by stating the status of the consultant is complex, but that staff is in contact with the consultant to determine whether he will continue to be available to assist the Town in rewriting the plan.

#### **Disaster Recovery Council (DRC)**

Mr. Wiggins stated the DRC Emergency Preparedness Drill will be on April 29, at 9:00 am. He stated that the DRC won an award that is given every year by the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC). He stated that MASC will be at Town Hall on April 29 to film the drill. He closed by stating that staff will travel to Greenville, SC this summer to accept the award on behalf of the DRC.

**Beach Rules**

Chairman May stated that the committee had been given joint jurisdiction with the Environment & Wildlife Committee (EWC) over the Beach Rules. He stated some of the items that were discussed by the prior EWC were issues of Public Safety.

**Definition of the “Beach”**

Chairman May stated that the first issue discussed by the prior EWC was the definition of the “beach”. He stated that SIPOA had historically been responsible for everything from the dry sand inland, and the Town was responsible for everything from the high-water mark seaward. Chairman May stated this definition can be problematic if beach patrol or the town’s code enforcement officers issue a citation on the dry sand, due to the current definition of the “beach” not including the dry sand.

The committee was in unanimous agreement that the definition of the beach should be amended per the draft language that was included as part of Ordinance 2025-08.

**Beach Fires**

Mr. Cronin stated before the committee moves on to discuss regulating and permitting fires on the beach, the larger policy question of whether the Town wants to continue to allow fires on the beach should be answered. He stated most beach communities in South Carolina prohibit fires on the beach.

Ms. Boissonnault asked if the Town were to prohibit beach fires, could the ordinance be written so that fires at the Polar Plunge and the Full Moon Bonfire could still be allowed. She also asked if the committee could find out how many permits have been issued by SIPOA in the prior year.

Mr. Cronin stated the permitted fires were not the issue, but rather the unpermitted fires. Mr. Cronin stated that beach patrol staff were on Kiawah Island and counted approximately 17 beach fires in one evening. Mr. Cronin stated that SIPOA informed the Town they had only issued 4 or 5 permits for fires that evening. He stated that the number of permits issued by SIPOA will not tell the entire story, as most of the fires on the beach are unpermitted.

Mr. Sporn asked if SIPOA had an enforcement capability related to beach fires.

Mr. Sankovich asked when the town’s enforcement capability stops in the evenings.

Mr. Cronin stated that in the off-season, there is no beach patrol. He stated that between April and September they are on the beach until 4:30 pm, and 7:45 pm in the peak season.

Mr. Sankovich said that in his experience, being at a beach fire, beach patrol will ask to see the SIPOA issued permit.

Mr. Cronin stated one reason the draft ordinance was written was to give the Town enforcement capabilities on beach fires. He stated he has had conversations with Chief Ryan Kunitzer of St. John's Fire District (SJFD) about enforcing town issued permits. He stated that one reason for engaging SJFD, was that SJFD was and is currently unable to enforce SIPOA issued fire permits. In closing, he stated that in order for SJFD to enforce permits, the permit will need to be issued by the Town.

Ms. Boissonnault asked if SIPOA had been contacted about beach fire permits, and if so, what was their response to the Town stepping into the permitting process.

Mr. Sankovich stated that when he was Chair of the SIPOA Safety and Security Committee, they approached SJFD to ask about enforcing beach fire permitting. He stated that the response from SJFD at that time was they were too busy to take on extra enforcement duties.

Mr. Cronin stated that SIPOA was contacted last year. He stated the Town told SIPOA they were not seeking to replace SIPOA in the permitting process, but rather to ensure SIPOA gives the approval for any beach fire taking place on their property. He continued by stating that the only way to remove SIPOA from the process would be to prohibit beach fires above the high-water mark, thus only permitting beach fires on public property.

Mr. Sankovich stated that it was his opinion that fires should not be allowed on the dry sand.

Mr. Cronin stated that he would have no objection to allowing fires only on the wet sand. He stated that in effect, this would remove any private property owner from the permitting process, including SIPOA and Camp St. Christopher.

Ms. Boissonnault asked who would be responsible for permitting and enforcement.

Chairman May asked Mr. Sankovich to speak with SIPOA and make sure they were comfortable with what was being discussed. He added that he wanted to ensure that SJFD is still willing to provide whatever permitting and/or enforcement they had previously agreed to.

Mr. Wiggins reminded the committee that the prior EWC discussed moving fires to the wet sand only. He stated that the EWC did not

want to move fires to the wet sand due to the possibility of burned wood and other debris being washed into the ocean during an accidental wave inundation.

Chairman May commented that people should have the respect to pick up everything before they leave the site so that wood and other debris isn't washed into the ocean.

Mr. Cronin stated he would advocate for getting the beach fires as far away from the dunes as possible. He stated he thought that SJFD would also want the fires as far away from dune vegetation and other structures as possible.

Chairman May stated that it appeared the committee was in unanimous agreement that it would be their recommendation to continue to allow fires provided they are permitted and to only allow fires on the wet sand.

Chairman May provided a brief report of the current SIPOA beach fire rules.

Ms. Boissonnault asked how permit holders would be notified if SJFD or the Town needs to cancel beach fire permits.

Chairman May stated that the Town's Communications and Events Director can communicate any new beach fire permit rules and cancellations via the Town's regular channels of communication. He continued by stating that these items are more operational in nature that don't need to be addressed right now, but that he thought any new rules passed by council should be included in short-term rental information packets given to guests of Seabrook Island.

Mr. Cronin added that the Town has budgeted funds to replace all beach signage. He stated that new rules would be a part of the new beach signage.

In closing out the beach fires discussion, Mr. Cronin stated he would be striking language requiring authorization of private property owners of beach fires being constructed on their property. He stated that this is purely due to the committee recommending fires be built on wet sand only. He also stated that he would be amending the language requiring the Town, SIPOA, and SJFD to establish suitable fire locations at regular intervals throughout the year. He stated if the Town were only to allow fires on wet sand, this site location requirement may not be needed.

## **Fishing and Swimming**

Chairman May informed the committee that the town's attorney had advised the Town not to regulate fishing on the beach, as that was an

activity that was solely administered to by the SCDNR. He continued by stating that the Town's attorney had been contacted by the SCDNR, and advised that the Town could regulate fishing on the beach if it was in the best interest of safety.

Chairman May moved onto a list of issues recommended by the EWC. He stated that the EWC has recommended a prohibition on shark fishing within 300 yards of the shoreline.

Mr. Sankovich asked how this prohibition would be enforced.

Chairman May asked if people are fishing for sharks in the vicinity of swimmers, would that not qualify as a safety issue.

Chairman Hamilton of EWC stated that this was a common regulation found amongst neighboring beach communities. Chairman Hamilton recalled a kayaker off of Seabrook Island dropping large bait into the water and caught a 10' bull shark that was pulled onto the beach. He continued by stating if people are fishing for sharks, there is a potential for sharks being attracted to the waters adjacent to the beach.

The committee was in unanimous agreement that shark fishing should be prohibited within 300 yards of the shoreline.

The committee was also in unanimous agreement to support the EWC recommendation that all fishermen must always remain within 25' of their fishing pole(s).

Chairman May stated that he recently visited Hilton Head and noticed there were designated parts of the surf that were for swimming only. He stated he would support a small number of similar places on Seabrook beaches that would be for swimming only. He continued by stating that on Seabrook Island, the areas around Boardwalk's 1 and 9, including the areas around the Club are popular for sunbathers and swimmers.

Ms. Boissonnault stated she was in support of Chairman May's proposal. She stated that the Town should approach Camp St. Christopher and ask if they would like to see a swimming only section of the beach established near the camp.

Mr. Sankovich stated that he likened the ocean surf to a roadway, swimmers as the pedestrians, and fisherman as the vehicles. He stated they should share the roadway, but that swimmers should have the right-of-way in the name of safety.

In closing, the committee was in unanimous agreement to keep current language in Chapter 32 giving a code enforcement officer the authority to require fisherman to move in the interest of public safety. Additionally, the committee was in agreement that sections of the beach at Boardwalks 1, 9, and near the Seabrook Island Beach Club should be established as swimming only beach.

### **Stunt Kites**

Chairman May moved onto discuss allowing stunt kites on the beaches of Seabrook Island. He proposed that the ordinance prohibit stunt kites in the swimming only areas.

Chairman Hamilton of EWC stated that his committee has recommended a total prohibition on stunt kites on the beach. He stated this recommendation was made so as to protect birds on the beach.

Chairman May stated that he would propose that the recommendation of PSC should remain that stunt kites be prohibited only in the designated swimming areas. He stated that when EWC and PSC meet as a joint committee to recommend a draft ordinance, the different prohibitions of stunt kites between the committees can be further discussed.

### **Off/On-Leash Pet Rules**

Chairman May stated that EWC has recommended that the beach beyond Boardwalk #9 become an on-leash area.

Mr. Cronin stated to the committee that staff have received complaints that at the end of Boardwalk 9 is an off-leash area. He stated the complaints are from dog owners whose dogs may not be well behaved on a leash having to socialize with dogs that are off leash. He stated the request from these owners has been to move the off/on-leash boundary from its current position (300 yards NW of Boardwalk 9) up to Boardwalk 9. He stated this would allow dog owners whose dogs are not well behaved on a leash to directly access an on-leash area at the end of Boardwalk 9.

Chairman May proposed the distance from the end of the boardwalk to the on-leash area be cut from 300 yards to 150 yards. However, he stated that he would agree to move the on/off-leash boundary up to Boardwalk 9, but stated he wanted to get the input of EWC and also dog owners before deciding on a recommendation.

Mr. Sankovich stated he did not have strong feelings on the boundary one way or the other.

Ms. Boissonnault stated she would like the boundary moved up to Boardwalk 9 based on the comments made by Mr. Cronin and hearing stories from dog owners whose dogs are not as well socialized. She

closed by stating she wanted to give dog owners the opportunity to speak to the committee before making a recommendation.

### **Commercial Activity**

Chairman May stated that the reason he felt there was not much commercial activity on Seabrook Island beaches was that the population density is not enough to make most commercial ventures financially viable. He stated that the kinds of activities he was referencing are activities like chair and umbrella rentals and selling ice cream. However, related to allowing these types of businesses to exist, he asked rhetorically, "what's the harm?".

Mr. Cronin stated there are other commercial activities that staff know are taking place in violation of the current ordinance. He stated these are activities such as photography. Mr. Cronin stated his goal was not to expand allowed commercial activity, but rather to recognize the commercial activity that staff know is already taking place on the beach. He continued by stating that the most common question staff receive is can couples be married on the beach. He stated the answer is that technically, gatherings such as wedding ceremonies are permitted on the beach, but that commercial wedding organizers that bring chairs or take photographs on the beach are prohibited. He closed by stating that prior debate has centered around amending the current ordinance to recognize activities that staff know are already taking place.

Mr. Sankovich likened being approached by a commercial photographer on the beach to a solicitor coming to your house. He stated that soliciting is not permitted on Seabrook Island.

Mr. Cronin stated it would be his recommendation that the current language in 32-55 be amended to clarify what can and cannot be done.

Chairman May used the scenario of a group doing yoga that pays an instructor before the yoga session, and then doing yoga at sunrise on the beach. He stated he did not view this as a commercial activity taking place on the beach.

Mr. Sankovich stated he would have a problem with yoga participants from outside Seabrook Island coming through the gate to participate in yoga sessions on the beach, but stated Chairman May's scenario is not a problem.

Chairman May stated that he did not view photographers on the beach as being an issue, and in his opinion, this type of activity would not be prohibited under the current ordinance. He closed by stating that if a local gym were to advertise workouts on the beach, that would merit further discussion, but stated that as it stands, he would

recommend leaving the current language prohibiting commercial activity as it is.

Chairman May stated that his recommendation would be to amend the current ordinance to permit gatherings on the beach, provided they do not take place in a designated swimming area or inhibit beach patrol. He added that the ordinance should make it clear that commercial activity connected to any gathering is prohibited.

The committee was in unanimous agreement with Chairman May's recommendation.

**E-Bikes**

Mr. Cronin gave a brief report on what types of E-Bikes are allowed on Seabrook Island. He stated that bikes equipped with a throttle (Class 2 and above) are not permitted on Seabrook Island.

Ms. Boissonnault stated she wanted to ensure that the E-Bikes currently permitted (Class 1) on Seabrook Island would not be prohibited.

**Metal Shovels**

Ms. Boissonnault asked how the metal shovels became a topic for discussion. She stated that if beach fire holes are required to be a significant depth, a metal shovel would be required.

Chairman Hamilton of EWC stated there are plastic shovels that can dig holes for beach fires. He stated it is on the list for discussion because most other beachside communities ban metal shovels. He stated he would not have an issue allowing metal shovels on the beach.

**Drones**

Mr. Cronin stated drones have been discussed at prior committee meetings as they relate to their use in fishing. He stated that the Isle of Palms have seen drones used to drop large bait into the water as a method to catch sharks. He stated that if the committee would like to prohibit this activity, he would need to consult the town attorney to ask if this kind of prohibition is consistent with state statute.

Chairman May stated he would be in support of whatever the committee can do to prohibit shark fishing.

**Canopies/Umbrellas**

Mr. Cronin stated that before the committee considers any restrictions on shade structures, they should invite beach patrol staff to appear at a future PSC meeting. He stated that the committee can make a determination after hearing from beach patrol staff whether these shade structures are an issue.

**Nudity**

After a brief discussion related to the appropriateness of nude sunbathing on Seabrook Island, the PSC was in unanimous agreement that nudity on the beaches of Seabrook Island should be prohibited.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, Chairman May declared the meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Peter D. Wiggins II, MPA  
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08**

**ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN CODE FOR THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA; CHAPTER 32, WATERWAYS AND BEACHES; SO AS TO AMEND CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRES ON THE BEACH; TO AMEND THE RULES PERTAINING TO FISHING AND SWIMMING ON THE BEACH; TO PROHIBIT SWIMMING AND WADING IN CAPTAIN SAMS INLET; TO GRANT BEACH PATROL AND CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO RECALL SWIMMERS FROM THE WATER; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 5-7-30 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, each municipality of the state, in addition to the powers conferred to its specific form of government, may enact regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of the state, including the exercise of powers in relation to roads, streets, markets, law enforcement, health, and order in the municipality or respecting any subject which appears to it necessary and proper for the security, general welfare, and convenience of the municipality or for preserving health, peace, order, and good government in it; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sections 5-7-140 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean are extended to include all that area lying between the high-tide line and one mile seaward of the high-tide line. Further, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-water mark of a navigable body of water, other than the Atlantic Ocean, are extended to include all that area lying between the high-water mark and the low-water mark. In both cases, such areas shall be subject to all the ordinances and regulations that may be applicable to the areas lying within the corporate limits of the municipality, and the municipal courts shall have jurisdiction to punish individuals who are found guilty of violating the provisions of the municipal ordinances where the misdemeanor occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 5-7-145 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a coastal municipality may enact and enforce regulations it determines to be necessary for the safety of all persons on the beach; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 5-7-150 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, every coastal municipality has criminal jurisdiction over piers and other structures and the waters of the ocean, a sound, or an inlet within one mile of those portions of the strand within the corporate limits. The corporate limits of the municipality are extended in a straight line from the strand into the ocean, inlet, or sound from the point where the corporate limits of the municipality reach the high-water mark of the strand. If an extension overlaps with the criminal jurisdiction of another political subdivision, the jurisdiction of each political subdivision extends to the equidistant point from the high-water mark of each strand; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 32 of the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island (the “Town Code”) establishes various rules and regulations applicable to beaches and waterways within the Town of Seabrook Island; and

**WHEREAS**, following a review of its existing rules and regulations, the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island desire to amend certain provisions of Chapter 32 of the Town Code to further enhance public health and safety, to protect wildlife and critical habitat areas, and to preserve the integrity of the town’s coastal resources; and

**WHEREAS**, during a duly called meeting on October 9, 2025, the Town’s Environment and Wildlife Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the Town Code, at which time the committee made a recommendation in favor of adoption of the same; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council is authorized to amend the Town Code, pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section 1-9 (“Amendments to Code”) and the procedures established in Chapter 2, Article III, Division 2 (“Ordinances and Resolutions”), of the Town Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council advertised and held a public hearing on the proposed amendments during a duly called meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025; and; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has thoroughly considered this matter and believes the proposed amendments to the Town Code are in the best interest of the Town and will satisfy the objectives set forth herein;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority granted by the Constitution and the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND:**

**SECTION I. Amending Chapter 32 of the Town Code.** The Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Chapter 32, Waterways and Beaches;; is hereby amended to read as follows:

**ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL**

**Sec. 32-1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the use of beaches and waterways within the town. This chapter is intended to:

- (a) Protect the coastal environment, including beaches, dunes, vegetation, waterways, wetlands, and wildlife habitats;
- (b) Preserve water quality and prevent pollution, litter, and other forms of environmental degradation;
- (c) Ensure that swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, and other recreational activities may be conducted safely and without conflict;

- (d) Reduce risks to persons and property arising from hazardous conditions and unsafe activities;
- (e) Promote the quiet enjoyment of beaches and waterways for residents and visitors alike; and
- (f) Conserve the scenic, cultural, and economic value of the town's coastal and marine resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

**Sec. 32-2. Authority.**

- (a) Pursuant to Section 5-7-30 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, each municipality of the state, in addition to the powers conferred to its specific form of government, may enact regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of the state, including the exercise of powers in relation to roads, streets, markets, law enforcement, health, and order in the municipality or respecting any subject which appears to it necessary and proper for the security, general welfare, and convenience of the municipality or for preserving health, peace, order, and good government in it.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 5-7-140(a) of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean are extended to include all that area lying between the high-tide line and one mile seaward of the high-tide line. These areas are subject to all the ordinances and regulations that may be applicable to the areas lying within the corporate limits of the municipality, and the municipal courts have jurisdiction to punish individuals violating the provisions of the municipal ordinances where the misdemeanor occurred in the area defined in this section.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 5-7-140(b) of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-water mark of a navigable body of water, other than the Atlantic Ocean, are extended to include all that area lying between the high-water mark and the low-water mark. These areas are subject to all of the ordinances and regulations that may be applicable to the areas lying within the corporate limits of the municipality, and the municipal courts have jurisdiction to punish individuals violating the provisions of the municipal ordinances where the misdemeanor occurred in the areas defined in this section.
- (d) Pursuant to Section 5-7-145(a) of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a coastal municipality may enact and enforce regulations it determines necessary for the safety of all persons on the beach.
- (e) Pursuant to Section 5-7-150 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Every coastal municipality has criminal jurisdiction over piers and other structures and the waters of the ocean, a sound, or an inlet within one mile of those portions of the strand within the

corporate limits. The corporate limits of the municipality are extended in a straight line from the strand into the ocean, inlet, or sound from the point where the corporate limits of the municipality reach the high-water mark of the strand. If an extension overlaps with the criminal jurisdiction of another political subdivision, the jurisdiction of each political subdivision extends to the equidistant point from the high-water mark of each strand.

### **Sec. 32-3. Definitions.**

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply, unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

- (a) *Apparent high-water mark* means the visible line along the shore indicating the highest point regularly reached by water under normal tidal conditions. It is not a fixed elevation, but may be identified by natural indicators including, but not limited to, the wrack line of seaweed, shells, or driftwood; changes in sand color or texture; the absence of non-littoral vegetation; and evidence of scouring or erosion.
- (b) *Beach* means that area lying seaward of the primary front sand dune, bulk head, revetment, or seawall, and landward of the low-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean and North Edisto River, together with those lands which are subject to periodic inundation by tidal and wave actions so that no non-littoral vegetation is established.
- (c) *Dune* means a naturally occurring or artificially created mound or ridge of sand, landward of the beach, formed by wind or wave action and typically stabilized in part by vegetation, which serves to protect upland areas from the effects of wind, waves, tides, and storm events.
- (d) *Fire* means any open flame, combustion, or ignition source, whether contained or uncontained, including, but not limited to, bonfires, campfires, wood-burning fires, fire pits, or similar devices, regardless of size. For purposes of this chapter, “fire” does not include decorative flames, such as candles, lanterns, torches, or battery-operated lights, nor does it include stoves, grills, heaters, or similar devices which are intended for cooking or heating.
- (e) *Primary frontal sand dune* means a continuous or nearly continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes landward of the beach and subject to erosion and overtopping from high tides and waves during major coastal storms. The inland limit of the primary frontal sand dune is at a point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep shape to a relatively mild slope.
- (f) *SCDES-BCM* means the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, Bureau of Coastal Management.

**Secs. 32-~~41~~—32-19. Reserved.**

## **ARTICLE II. BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT**

## DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

### Sec. 32-20. Plan adopted.

The updated Comprehensive Beach Management Plan for the Town of Seabrook Island, dated December 17, 2024, is hereby adopted by reference as if fully set forth in this section, and shall constitute the town's comprehensive beach management plan in accordance with applicable South Carolina Law. An official copy of the 2024 Comprehensive Beach Management Plan Update shall be maintained on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

### ~~Sec. 32-21. Definitions.~~

~~(a) For purposes of this article the term "beach" means (i) for that area bordering on the high-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean, that area lying between the high-tide line and the low-tide line, and (ii) for that area bordering on the high-water mark of the North Edisto River, that area between the high-water mark and the low-water mark.~~

~~(b) For purposes of this article, the term "primary frontal sand dune" means a continuous or nearly continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes landward of the beach and subject to erosion and overtopping from high tides and waves during major coastal storms. The inland limit of the primary frontal sand dune is at a point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep shape to a relatively mild slope.~~

~~(c) For the avoidance of doubt, (i) excluded from the definitions set forth in this section 32-21 is any property, privately owned, whose seaward boundary extends below the high-tide line or the high-water mark and (ii) the town's police jurisdiction extends one mile seaward of the low-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean.~~

### Secs. 32-~~21~~2—32-40. Reserved.

## DIVISION 2. RESTRICTIONS

### Sec. 32-41. Beach and dune protection.

(a) No person shall alter, destroy or remove any portion of a primary frontal sand dune without first obtaining a permit from all applicable governmental authorities.

(b) Other than (1) emergency personnel, (2) service personnel, (3) Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) personnel and its authorized contractors, each in the performance of their responsibilities, (4) Seabrook Island beachfront property owners and their contractors (with respect to the beach trust property described in Section 31 of the Protective Covenants for Seabrook Island Development, with the prior approval of SIPOA), and (5) members of the Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol and the members of the Turtle Stranding Team in the performance of their South Carolina Department of Natural

Resources (SCDNR) permitted activities, and all activities ancillary thereto, no person shall walk on any portion of the primary frontal sand dune other than at designated beach accesses owned and maintained by SIPOA or privately owned access points constructed in accordance with regulations promulgated by ~~SCDES-BCM~~the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). This section 32-41(b) shall not in any way impair/remove the necessity to comply with any applicable state and federal law.

- (c) All sand fencing seaward of the primary frontal sand dunes shall comply with ~~SCDES-BCM~~the SCDHEC, Office of Coastal Resource Management guidelines contained in the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act, and may not be installed until all applicable state, federal and town permits have been issued.
- (d) No alterations shall be made to the natural shoreline, inlet location, dune system, or to existing natural beach elevation without the Town Council's approval and until all applicable state, federal or town permits have been issued.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this section 32-41 shall limit (1) beachfront property owners and their invited guests and employees and guests of St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center from accessing the beach from their property or accessing their property from the beach in either case by means of private beach accesses constructed in accordance with regulations promulgated by ~~SCDES-BCM~~SCDHEC or (2) the routine landscaping of the beach trust and beachfront private property.

**Sec. 32-42. Vehicle use.**

- (a) Motor vehicles of any type or kind shall not be driven or operated on the beaches of Seabrook Island, except for those expressly authorized below:
  - (1) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of any municipal, county, state or federal agency, department or unit;
  - (2) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of any bona fide public safety agency, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, code enforcement, fire suppression and emergency medical services;
  - (3) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of any contractor, agency or entity providing goods or services on the beach under contract with or at the request of the town;
  - (4) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of the following community organizations which are necessary for the performance of maintenance services, the provision of security services and/or the transportation of personnel and equipment on behalf of the organization:
    - a. Seabrook Island Property Owners Association;

- b. Seabrook Island Club;
  - c. Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol;
  - d. Seabrook Island Utility Commission;
  - e. St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center;
- (5) Small open motorized vehicles and medical devices may be operated by, or for the benefit of, individuals who have a physical or mental disability which: i) is recognized by state or federal law, and ii) which would otherwise preclude their use and enjoyment of the beach;
- (6) Class 1 pedal-assist electric bicycles which are duly permitted by the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association for use within the Seabrook Island Development and which display a valid SIPOA decal while operating on the beach. For the purposes of this section, "class 1 pedal-assist electric bicycles" shall have the same meaning as "electric-assist bicycles" and "bicycles with helper motors," as defined in S.C. Code of Laws, § 56-1-10; and
- (7) Any other vehicles deemed essential by the town and duly operating under one of the following types of special vehicle use permits:
- a. *Standard vehicle use permits.* Standard vehicle use permit requests shall be submitted to the town administrator in writing no less than 30 days prior to the date upon which the applicant seeks to use a vehicle on the beach. Permit requests shall be forwarded by the town administrator to the town council for consideration at the next available town council meeting. If the town council determines that the use of a vehicle is essential to the applicant's intended purpose, then it may approve the issuance of a permit by resolution. In approving a permit, the town council may attach such reasonable conditions as it deems necessary to protect public health and safety.
  - b. *Emergency permits.* Emergency vehicle use permit requests shall be made to the town administrator, either verbally or in writing, as soon as practicable. If the town administrator determines that the use of a vehicle is necessary to mitigate an immediate threat to public health and safety, he or she may authorize a permit, either verbally or in writing. In approving a permit, the town administrator may attach such reasonable conditions as he or she deems necessary to protect public health and safety.
- (b) Except in cases of an emergency, vehicles which are authorized to be driven or operated on the beach pursuant to this section shall comply with the following requirements at all times:

- (1) Vehicles shall be operated in such a manner so as not to endanger or unreasonably disturb beachgoers, wildlife or marine life, and designated critical habitat areas, including shorebird and turtle nesting areas;
- (2) Vehicles shall not exceed a speed of ten miles per hour when operated on the beach;
- (3) Vehicles shall be operated on the wet sand; vehicles may not be operated on dry sand except to gain access to the wet sand;
- (4) Vehicles shall not be driven onto or within any dune or vegetated area;
- (5) Vehicles shall enter the beach only from authorized access points; and
- (6) All vehicles being operated on the beach, excluding those specified in subsections (a)(5) and (a)(6), shall be equipped with four-wheel drive.

**Sec. 32-43. Wildlife and marine life protection.**

*(a) Harassment of wildlife and marine life prohibited.*

- (1) In addition to any other applicable state or federal laws, no person shall harass any of the following species of wildlife and marine life:
  - a. Any species of sea turtle which has been designated as an "endangered" or "threatened" species by any state or federal agency with applicable jurisdiction, including the nests, eggs and young of such species;
  - b. Any species of bird which has been designated as an "endangered" or "threatened" species by any state or federal agency with applicable jurisdiction, including the nests, eggs and young of such species; and
  - c. Any species of marine mammal which is protected by the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, or which has been designated as an "endangered" or "threatened" species by any state or federal agency with applicable jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.
- (2) For the purpose of this section, the term "harass" shall mean:
  - a. Any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that kills or injures, or has the potential to kill or injure, any protected species listed in subsection (a)(1); and
  - b. Any act that has the potential to harm or otherwise disturb (but not kill or injure) any protected species listed in subsection (a)(1) by disrupting behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to: migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

- (3) Nothing herein shall preclude or otherwise limit the activities of any individual, employee, group or organization which has been duly authorized by an agency or department of the state or federal government, including, but not limited to, employees or members of the Avian Conservation Center, the Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol, the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network, and the South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

~~(b) Restrictions on swimming in Captain Sams Inlet.~~

- ~~(1) Except in the case of emergency, it shall be unlawful for any person to swim in the waters of Captain Sam's Inlet:~~

~~a. During the period two hours before to two hours after low tide, as predicted by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Kiawah River Bridge Tide Station (NOAA Station ID #8667062); and~~

~~b. When one or more Atlantic bottlenose dolphins are present in the inlet.~~

- ~~(2) In instances when an individual is swimming in Captain Sams Inlet outside of those times where swimming is prohibited pursuant to subsection (b)(1), and one or more dolphins subsequently enter the inlet, the individual swimming in the inlet shall immediately return to the shore and cease swimming upon observing the dolphins or being made aware of their presence in the inlet.~~

~~(e)~~(b) *Beached, injured or stranded animals.*

- (1) Beached, injured or stranded animals shall be reported immediately to the town, Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) security, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office or the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

**Sec. 32-44. Beach rules for domestic household animals/pets.**

- (a) *General requirements for domestic household animals/pets.* Domestic household animals/pets shall not be allowed on any beach within the municipal limits of the town except as provided for herein.

(1) *Restricted area.* A restricted area is hereby established beginning at a line extending from Boardwalk #1 to the Atlantic Ocean and continuing in a northeasterly direction to Captain Sams Inlet. No person shall bring or otherwise allow any domestic household animal/pet into the restricted area at any time, whether on a leash or off of a leash.

(2) *Limited restriction area.* A limited restriction area is hereby established beginning approximately 300 yards northwest of a line extending from Boardwalk #9 (Pelican Watch Boardwalk) to the Edisto River and continuing in a northwesterly direction to

Privateer Creek. No person shall bring or otherwise allow any domestic household animal/pet into the limited restriction area that is not on a leash at all times.

(3) *General beach area.* In all other areas of the beach other than the restricted area and the limited restriction area described above, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. *Peak season:* From April 1 to September 30, no person shall bring or allow any domestic household animal/pet into the general beach area between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. that is not on leash at all times. No person shall bring or allow any domestic household animal/pet into the general beach area from 5:01 p.m. to 9:59 a.m. that is not on a leash or, if not on a leash, is not effectively controlled while on the beach.
- b. *Non-peak season:* From October 1 to March 31, no person shall bring any domestic household animal/pet on the beach that is not on a leash or, if not on a leash, is not effectively controlled while on the beach.

(4) *Definitions.*

- a. For purposes of this section the term "effectively controlled" shall mean that the behavior of a domestic household animal/pet is restrained by a competent person from: (A) entering any area on or adjacent to the beach in which a domestic household animal/pet is prohibited; (B) destroying or damaging any property; (C) attacking or threatening to attack any person or any other domestic household animal/pet in any manner; or (D) being a nuisance to other beach goers.
- b. For purposes of this section, the term "nuisance" shall mean causing annoyance, inconvenience or discomfort to the public health, safety and welfare.
- c. For purposes of this section the term "competent person" shall mean a person of suitable age and discretion and physically capable of restraining and controlling the domestic animal/pet in his or her care in order to prevent harm to persons, property or to other animals.
- d. For purposes of this section, the term "on a leash" shall mean that the domestic household animal/pet is restrained by a competent person using a physical restraint made of cord, rope, strap, chain or other material effective for restraining the type and size of domestic household animal/pet, the physical restraint being no more than 16 feet in length, secured to the animal's collar or harness and continually held by a competent person.
- e. For purposes of this section, the term "off a leash" shall mean that the domestic household animal/pet is not on a leash as defined herein. Domestic household animals/pets under voice control or under control of remotely operated devices such as electronic collars shall be considered to be "off of a leash."

- (5) No later than one year from the effective date of this section, council shall review the terms of this section, and determine whether it has worked effectively and achieved the objective of balancing the interests of all users of the beach. Following such review, council shall amend this section, if and to the extent, it deems necessary.

**Sec. 32-45. Removal of horse waste.**

Every horseback rider or sponsor of horseback rides on the beach shall remove or cleanup any excrement resulting from such horseback ride as promptly as is reasonably practical following the conclusion of each ride.

**Sec. 32-46. Littering prohibited.**

No person shall leave, or cause or permit to be left, any glass, bottle, glassware, can or pieces thereof, cigarette or cigar butts, or any garbage, waste, litter, trash, debris or refuse of any kind on the beach or within the waters adjacent to the beach.

**Sec. 32-47. Negligent operation of vessels.**

- (a) *Vessel defined.* The term "vessel" means every description of watercraft on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water.
- (b) *Prohibited.* No person may use any vessel or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, surfboard, or similar device in a negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.
- (c) *Use of alcohol, narcotic, etc., prohibited.* No person shall use or retrieve a vessel, or use any water skis, aquaplane, surfboard or similar device while under the influence of alcohol, any narcotic drug, barbiturate, marijuana, or hallucinogen.

**Sec. 32-48. Launching or retrieving vessel.**

- (a) No person shall launch or retrieve a vessel, excluding sailboats, surfboards, rafts, inner tubes, kayaks or similar devices, anywhere on the beach seaward of the mean high-water mark, except in the case of emergency.
- (b) No person shall propel or cause to move any vessel, except sailboats, surfboards, rafts, inner tubes, kayaks or similar devices from the water onto the sand or anywhere on the beach above the mean low-water mark, except in the case of an emergency.

**Sec. 32-49. Vessels on beach.**

Vessels may not be left overnight on any part of the beach, except in the case of an emergency.

**Sec. 32-50. Overnight storage of beach equipment prohibited.**

Unless the town grants special permission in writing, tents, tent frames, chairs, umbrellas, clothing, coolers, toys or other beach equipment left unattended on the beach after sunset shall be deemed abandoned, and the town shall have the right to take possession and dispose of such items.

**Sec. 32-51. Fires on the beach.**

(a) In general. ~~No~~ It shall be unlawful for any person ~~shall to~~ build, ~~start,~~ ignite, or maintain a fire or open flame on the beach, except as expressly permitted by this section, ~~or use any propane fired grill, cooker, or heating device heated by fire on the beach.~~

(b) Beach fire permits.

(1) Permit required. No person shall build, ignite, or maintain a fire on the beach without first obtaining a beach fire permit from the town.

(2) Application. Beach fire permit applications shall be submitted on a form made available by the town administrator and must include:

- a. The name, address, and contact information of the applicant who, upon issuance, shall serve as the permittee;
- b. The date, start time, end time, and location of the proposed beach fire; and
- c. If the applicant does not own the property where the beach fire is proposed to be located, written authorization from the owner of record.

(3) Due date.

a. Applications must be submitted at least two business days in advance of the proposed bonfire date, as follows:

<u>Proposed Bonfire Date</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
<u>Saturday, Sunday, or Monday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Thursday</u>
<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Friday</u>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Monday</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Tuesday</u>
<u>Friday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Wednesday</u>

b. If a town holiday falls within the review period, one (1) additional business day shall be required.

c. Same-day and next-day applications will not be accepted.

d. Permits may be issued up to six (6) months prior to the proposed bonfire date.

(4) Non-transferable. Upon issuance, a beach fire permit shall be valid only for the date, time, and location specified therein. Responsibility for the permit may not be transferred to any person other than the permittee.

(5) Denial due to previous violations. The town may deny the issuance of a beach fire permit to any applicant who has been found guilty of one (1) or more violations of this section during the preceding twelve (12) months.

(c) General requirements. All permitted beach fires shall comply with the following:

(1) Permittee requirements. The permittee shall:

- a. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- b. Assume personal responsibility for ensuring compliance with the requirements of this section;
- c. Remain physically present at the beach fire at all times;
- d. Carry a copy of the permit, either in paper or digital form, while the beach fire is active; and
- e. Present a copy of the permit upon request by a fire official or code enforcement officer.

(2) Location requirements. All beach fires shall be located:

- a. On dry sand;
- b. At least ten (10) feet landward of the apparent high-water mark;
- c. At least twenty-five (25) feet from any boardwalk, walkover, dune, dune vegetation, bulkhead, revetment, or seawall;
- d. At least fifty (50) feet from another beach fire, an authorized vehicle access point, or a marked turtle nest; and
- e. In a location designated by the town administrator as suitable for beach fires. Designated locations shall be reviewed no less than annually in consultation with the fire marshal and other appropriate parties.

(3) Other requirements.

- a. Beach fires must be contained within a fire pit at least three (3) feet in diameter and twelve (12) inches deep.

- b. The use of chemical accelerants, including, but not limited to, gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, and similar substances, is strictly prohibited.
- c. Only clean, dry firewood may be burned. The burning of treated or painted wood, wood containing nails or other hardware, glass, metals, plastics, and other materials is strictly prohibited.
- d. Beach fires may not be ignited before 5:00 p.m. and must be extinguished by 10:00 p.m.
- e. Beach fires must be extinguished with water until cold to the touch.
- f. Ashes and unburned wood must be removed from the beach or buried at least twelve (12) inches below the surface.
- g. All holes and pits must be filled and the surface restored to its natural condition before leaving the beach.
- h. The surrounding area must be cleared of all trash and debris before leaving the beach.

(d) Permit cancellation and revocation.

(1) Authority. Beach fire permits may be cancelled or revoked by the town administrator, fire marshal, or code enforcement officers of the town whenever such action is deemed necessary to protect public health, safety, or welfare.

(2) Cancellation. Grounds for permit cancellation shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Hazardous weather or environmental conditions, such as high winds, drought, extreme heat, or the issuance of state or county burn bans; and
- b. The declaration of a state of emergency within the town.

(3) Revocation. Grounds for permit revocation shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Violation of any condition or requirement of the permit or this section;
- b. Use of prohibited materials or accelerants;
- c. Failure to properly attend, control, or extinguish a fire;
- d. Any circumstance in which the fire poses a threat to life, property, wildlife, or natural resources; or
- e. Submitting false, misleading, or incomplete information in the permit application.

(4) Notice. Notice of permit cancellation or revocation shall be provided to the permittee as soon as practicable by phone, email, text message, or other reasonable means.

(e) Authority to extinguish. Fire officials and code enforcement officers of the town may order the immediate extinguishment of any fire that is unpermitted, unsafe, or otherwise in violation of this section. Failure to comply shall constitute a violation of this section.

(f) Prohibited activities. Notwithstanding any other provision or requirement to the contrary, the following activities are strictly prohibited on the beach:

(1) The ignition, operation, or use of any grill, stove, heater, or similar device intended for cooking or heating, regardless of fuel or power source; and

(2) The ignition or display of decorative open flames, including, but not limited to, candles, lanterns, tiki torches, and similar items.

~~For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this section 32-51 shall prohibit or otherwise limit anyone with permission from the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association from building, starting, igniting or maintaining a fire above the high water mark.~~

**Sec. 32-52. Fireworks on the beach restricted.**

No person shall use, fire, shoot, discharge or ignite fireworks on the beach, except as permitted by the town in writing.

**Sec. 32-53. Glass containers prohibited.**

All glass containers are prohibited on the beach, except those in coolers or other appropriate container. Glass containers may temporarily be removed briefly from coolers or container for the purpose of transferring the contents to a paper or plastic cup.

**Sec. 32-54. Holes/structures on the beach.**

Anyone digging a hole in or creating a structure on the beach must restore the sand surface to its natural condition before leaving the beach.

**Sec. 32-55. Commercial activity.**

No person shall sell or offer for sale any goods or merchandise, or solicit any trade or business on the beach.

**Sec. 32-56. Chumming.**

- (a) For purposes of this section, "chumming" means the depositing into water chopped or ground bait consisting of raw meat or fish parts including blood and oil thereof, but excluding poultry, in an attempt to catch fish.
- (b) No chumming shall be allowed on or within 600 feet of the beach.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall affect or prohibit the baiting of crab traps or the placement of natural bait upon a hook and line.

**Sec. 32-57. Fishing on the beach.**

~~If a code enforcement officer determines that the simultaneous occurrence of fishing and swimming within the same waters adjoining the beach creates a safety hazard to any person, the officer is authorized to order the immediate cessation of one or both activities. Such order shall remain in effect until such time as the officer indicates that it is safe to resume. In the officer's discretion, an alternative location on the beach may be designated for the continuation of fishing or swimming during the pendency of the order. Failure to comply with any order issued pursuant to this section shall constitute a violation thereof. Code enforcement officers shall have the authority to require persons engaged in fishing from the beach to cease fishing if, in their judgement, circumstances indicate that cessation of fishing is in the interest of public safety. In the event the code enforcement officer determines that fishing from the beach may be unsafe for other users of the beach, the code enforcement officer may order any person engaged in fishing from the beach to immediately cease fishing until such time as he or she indicates that it is safe to resume fishing. The code enforcement officer may indicate that fishing may occur at an alternative location on the beach during the time that the cease fishing order is effective. Failure to comply with an order of the code enforcement officer shall be deemed a violation of this section.~~

**Sec. 32-58. Swimming and wading prohibited in Captain Sams Inlet.**

~~Except in the case of emergency, it shall be unlawful for any person to swim or wade in the waters of Captain Sams Inlet.~~

**Sec. 32-59. Power to recall swimmers.**

~~Code enforcement officers of the town are hereby vested with the authority to recall any person from the waters adjoining the beach when, in the officer's discretion, such person is in danger of drowning, is otherwise imperiled, poses a risk to the safety of others, or when conditions of wind, water, weather, or any other hazard, including the physical or mental condition of the person in the water, are such that continued presence in the waters would endanger the health, life, or safety of that person, rescue personnel, or others. Failure to comply with any order issued pursuant to this section shall constitute a violation thereof.~~

**Sec. 32-60. Penalties.**

Unless otherwise prescribed by law, any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section 1-7.

**SECTION 2. Conflicting Ordinances Repealed.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 3. Severability.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be deemed to be unconstitutional, unenforceable, or otherwise invalid by the final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be construed to have been the legislative intent of Town Council to pass said ordinance without such unconstitutional provision, and the validity of all remaining sections, subsections, paragraphs, clauses, or provisions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby. If said ordinance, or any provision thereof, is held by the final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction to be inapplicable to any person, group of persons, property, kind of property, circumstances or set of circumstances, such holding shall not affect the applicability thereof to any other persons, property or circumstances.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective from and after **January 1, 2026.**

**SIGNED AND SEALED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, having been duly adopted by the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

First Reading:           October 28, 2025  
Public Hearing:  
Second Reading:

**TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Kleinman, Mayor

**LEGAL REVIEW**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stafford J. McQuillin, Town Attorney

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter D. Wiggins II, Town Clerk

**From:** [Glen Cox](#)  
**To:** [Ray Hamilton](#); [Darryl May](#)  
**Cc:** [Joe Cronin](#); [Pete Wiggins](#); [Mark Andrews](#); [Jane Magioncalda](#); [Jeff Davis](#); [Bruce Kleinman](#)  
**Subject:** Beach Ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2026 5:16:47 PM

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Gentlemen,

As you work to get the updated beach ordinance across the finish line and to the Mayor for his approval, I offer the following for your consideration:

Beach Fires: Has there been any real deep conversations amongst your committees on whether allowing fires on the beach is the right thing to do? Joe Cronin had mentioned on numerous occasions that no other beach community allows them. Are we that Unique that we need to have them? What would happen if they were banned? Currently the state is in a severe drought with the past couple of days being red flag warning for open fires. Just this morning between boardwalk one and two were 3 obvious fire pits that had not been properly buried per the current ordinance. Are WE setting ourselves up for a fire in the dunes as has happened in the past without being in a drought? Should the Town Ban fires at a minimum until the drought is over?

I noted during the two committee meetings, the consensus is to build the fire pits on the wet sand. I'd ask that you take another look at this process. My wife Karin' and I are out on the beach most mornings before sunrise. We've witnessed the remains of many fires over the years, both extinguished and on a couple of occasions smoldering and one with flames. We put them out and bury them the best we can and notified Joe. The worst we've seen are the ones built on the wet sand. The debris from these fires that haven't been properly buried is spread by the incoming surf and linger across the wet sand. Having the fire pits dug in the wet sand sounds safe and the best practice, However I believe the burying will be more difficult for most people. Folks are ready to get off the beach and taking the time to properly bury is not going to happen on wet sand. Maybe a compromise would be to have the fire pits within 2-3 feet of the wet sand?

Fire Pits are to be extinguished by 10:00PM. A couple of years ago during turtle season a mamma came up the beach at 9:15pm next to BW1. Is 10:00pm the correct time or should it be say 9pm? That's 30 mins after sunset.

Fire Pitts during Turtle Season - Should we really have fires at all during Turtle Season?

Businesses Operating on the Beach: I highly encourage your committees to take another look at the recommendation to leave the language as is. I would ask the licensed in SC Town Attorney to decide on the interpretation of the law. I heard the Safety Committee say that if the Photography business transaction are made off the beach, then allowing the business to come on the beach and take pictures doesn't violate the current wording. As a licensed Town of SBI photographer I was amused by that. The business transaction is to take photos on the beach, don't see how that's allowed if there's no business allowed to operate on the beach. Joe mentioned he believes there should be exceptions to this written into the ordinance. I agree. Having Town licensed photographers on the beach makes a ton of sense to me. I've been asked on a couple of occasions to do so, but have not because it's against the ordinance. So please legitimize it and enforce the town license requirement FOR ALL.

Trash Receptacles on Beach: Keeping our beaches clean and free of debris is something we all should strive for. I encourage everyone who walks our beaches to carry a bag to pick it up. Since Karin' and I are amongst the first out on the beach in the mornings headed towards the Spit, we see the trash and debris and pick it up. There have been days where we have picked up as much as two grocery style bags of trash. And during Turtle Patrol season they pickup trash for the entire beach. This does not include what other residents and visitors may pick up during other times.

I would ask the environmental committee to discuss this and make a **STRONG** recommendation to the Mayor to return the receptacles to the beach as he said he was going to do two years ago.

Please provide to your committee members as I don't have their emails.

Respectfully,

Glen Cox  
Cat Tail Pond Road





Mayor Bruce Kleinman  
Seabrook Island Town Hall  
2001 Seabrook Island Road  
Seabrook Island, SC 29455

Dear Mayor Kleinman,

I hope this note finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of SIDOGS to proactively share our perspective on a potential change we understand may be under consideration—designating the area from Boardwalk 9 toward the buoys in front of Camp St. Christopher as leash-only year-round.

While we recognize this request has not formally come to us for input, we wanted to offer our thoughts early, in the spirit of collaboration and shared stewardship of the beach.

First, we want to acknowledge the underlying concern. We understand that some dog owners would value a place to walk their dogs on leash without encountering off-leash dogs—particularly for dogs that are reactive or more comfortable with space. That is a reasonable desire, and one we take seriously.

That said, after careful consideration, we do not believe a rule change in this area is the right solution.

This stretch of beach serves a distinct and important purpose today. It is a particularly valued off-leash area for many residents—especially older individuals—who rely on its proximity to Boardwalk 9, its relatively lower dog traffic, and the more protected standing space near the boardwalk. For many, it offers one of the most accessible and manageable ways to enjoy time on the beach with their dogs.

It is also heavily used by villa owners at that end of the island. If this area were converted to leash-only, those residents would need to travel past the Club by road to reach an off-leash area of meaningful size. In practical terms, this would shift access away from a group that currently depends on it, in order to accommodate another group's preference.

In other words, the benefit to one group would come at a clear detriment to another.

It is also important to note that this concern is entirely seasonal. During peak season, the existing 10:00am–5:00pm leash requirement already provides a reliable and predictable window for leash-only walking across the entire beach.

We also took the time to walk the distance from Boardwalk 1 to the existing leash-only area, which is approximately four minutes at a slow pace. While we recognize that any distance may be meaningful to some, this does suggest that a leash-only option is already reasonably accessible.

Additionally, due to tidal changes, the area beyond the Club is increasingly difficult to access from other parts of the beach. At most tides, passage between the Club and Boardwalk 9 is no longer available. As a result, closing this section to off-leash use would effectively eliminate a significant portion of the remaining usable off-leash space on that end of the island.

For these reasons, we believe maintaining the current rules preserves a more equitable balance of access.

That said, we would welcome the opportunity to explore alternative solutions that could better support leash-only users without reducing existing off-leash access. For example, there was previously a path from the Pelican's Nest Villa area that provided closer access to the leash-only section. Reopening that path, or creating a similar access point further up, could meaningfully improve accessibility for those seeking a more controlled walking environment.

We are grateful for the Town's thoughtful approach to managing shared spaces and for your continued engagement with the needs of the community. SIDOGS remains committed to being a constructive partner in these conversations, and we would be happy to discuss this further at any time.

Warm regards,

SIDOGS Board of Directors

On behalf of our membership of 258 Seabrook Island residents