

Environment & Wildlife Committee Regular Meeting

September 12, 2024, 10:00 am

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



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Weis, Chairman; Fred Demler, James Geiger, Mark Andrews

STAFF PRESENT: Joe Cronin (Town Administrator), Tyler Newman (Zoning Administrator)

FOIA STATEMENT

Mr. Cronin reported that the committee was in compliance with South Carolina FOIA statutes. Agendas were posted and provided to news media and all persons requesting notification.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Greenspace Conservancy Grant Request

Discussions were had related to what reports the Greenspace Conservancy would provide to the Town. Mr. Cronin stated the grantee will be required to submit receipts to show that funds were spent in accordance with the grant terms.

Mr. Andrews motioned to approve the grant request, seconded by Mr. Geiger and the motion was passed.

The recommendation was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Camp St. Christopher Grant Request

Mr. Geiger asked if Camp St. Christopher would be required to provide data to the Town that is collected as a result of grant funding. Mr. Weis stated that if the Town asked for the results Camp St. Christopher would provide it, but that there was no such requirement in the grant conditions.

Mr. Andrews motioned to approve the grant request, seconded by Mr. Geiger and the recommendation was passed.

The recommendation was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Seabrook Island Birders Grant Request

After a brief discussion related to what supplies would be purchased with grant funds, Mr. Geiger motioned to approve the request seconded by Mr. Weis. The motion passed unanimously.

The recommendation was approved with THREE AYES and ONE RECUSAL.

Because of a conflict of interest, Mr. Andrews recused himself from the grant request.

Beach Management
Plan

Patrick Barrineau of Coastal Science and Engineering provided an update to the Beach Management Plan. He asked staff to review the highlighted parts of the plan and update accordingly.

A discussion was had between committee members and Mr. Barrineau related to how models predict movement of Captain Sam's Inlet. The committee discussed with Mr. Barrineau the increasing rates of movement of the inlet and how that is addressed in the management plan.

Mr. Andrews recommended that the plan should highlight beach and habitat creation since 1976 including data on all threatened or endangered species found on Seabrook Island. There was further discussion on how the Town of Seabrook Island and the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) could collaborate on plan initiatives.

Discussions were had related to the movement of Captain Sam's Inlet and how movement will affect both Kiawah and Seabrook Island.

Marshfront
Management Plan

Dr. Nicole Elko provided a brief update on the Marshfront Management Plan.

Discussions were had related to creating a "Living Shoreline" and what permits may be required for performing work below the OCRM critical line.

Mr. Geiger asked about land on Seabrook Island that is owned by various conservation groups, and how these parcels of land could be included in successfully reaching marshfront management goals.

Committee Comments

Mr. Andrews commented on Deveaux Bank being identified as a site of international importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebirds Reserve Network.

Mr. Andrews also commented on the signs along Boardwalks 1, 7, and 9. He stated several groups had a goal of replacing the dolphin, turtle, and shorebirds sign.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, Chairman Weis declared the meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

Peter D. Wiggins II
Town Clerk