

Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

October 21, 2025 @ 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 Kortvelesy called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Dan Kortvelesy; Chairman, Committee members Virginia "Lark" Asbelle, John Kinne, and Dr. Leslie Baylis.

Town Staff Present: Joe Cronin (Town Administrator) 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

September 16, 2025

Dr. Baylis motioned to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting, seconded by Mr. Kinne. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Asbelle	abstain
Dr. Baylis	aye
Mr. Kinne	aye
Mr. Kortvelesy	aye

Dr. Baylis' motion was APPROVED with three ayes, no nays, and one abstention.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

SIPOA LSV Update

Chairman Kortvelesy asked the committee if anybody had observed any Charleston County Sheriff's deputies patrolling the public portion of Seabrook Island Road in the past month.

The committee responded that they had not.

Chairman Kortvelesy stated that he had no problem with deputies not being present on Seabrook Island Road and stated he realized they had larger priorities. He further stated the committee must keep this

in mind as they prepared their LSV recommendations for the full council.

Maryanne Connelly provided a data report to the committee on the Seabrook Island Property Owner's Association's (SIPOA) LSV safety enforcement campaign. She stated over the month of August, SIPOA added a total of 320 patrol hours, at no additional cost to SIPOA. She stated that a total of 311 citations were issued over the month of August, of which, 97 were related to LSV's.

Mr. Kinne asked what the average fine was for these citations.

Ms. Connelly stated the fines can be anywhere from \$50.00 to \$250.00, however, she stated that since there was a perception that SIPOA was not enforcing their own rules, patrol officers were asked to refrain from issuing fines. She stated that she wanted the month of August to serve as a period of safety education.

Ms. Connelly was asked to further break down the citations by driver type.

Ms. Connelly stated that of the citations issued, 51% were issued to property owners, 22% to visitors, and 27% to renters. Ms. Connelly stated the notion that renters are the only individuals violating LSV requirements is simply untrue.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked what the difference was between a "visitor" and a "renter".

Ms. Connelly stated that a "visitor" would be the son or daughter of a property owner, while a renter is on the island only because they are renting a property.

Ms. Connelly stated that 38% of the citations were issued because of the driver failing to display their pass. 25% of the citations were issued due to the state registration of the LSV being expired. 22% of the citations were related to a parking violation. 3% of the citations were related to a moving violation, and all other violations comprised 12% of citations.

Ms. Connelly stated that daily usage of LSV's was LSV traffic around the Boardwalks. She stated that daily average usage was 35 – 40 LSV's, and the busiest days were Friday through Sunday.

Ms. Connelly then provided a breakdown of LSV's by ownership type. She stated that 60% of LSV's on the island are owned by property owners, 30% were owned by renters, and 10% were owned by visitors.

Ms. Connelly then moved on to a discussion of common concerns that she hears as they relate to LSV's. She stated it is very hard to identify an underage driver due to the subjective decision that must be made at the instant the security officer decides to stop a vehicle. She stated that less than 10% of the stops were because of an underage driver. She stated that seat belt use varied amongst the different types of seatbelts. She stated it is hard for an officer to see if a Type 1 lap belt is buckled.

Ms. Connelly stated that articles informing residents of the coming safety campaign was included in the latest edition of *Currents*, and there was a drop in the number of observed seat belt violations due to the island's awareness of the safety campaign.

Ms. Connelly then discussed some of the island's conceptions as they relate to LSV's and some conclusions that can be drawn from the data. She stated there was a conception that LSV's operated by renters were responsible for the greatest number of violations. She stated that per the report, that belief was false, as was the belief that underage drivers were a major problem. She stated that a conclusion that was drawn from the campaign was that the awareness of the safety campaign decreased unsafe behavior. She closed by stating that the campaign met SIPOA's safety goals and prepared SIPOA to conduct another safety campaign in late-May of 2026.

Mr. Kinne stated the increase in the rate of LSV violations from 2024 to 2025, as referred to by Ms. Connelly, could be due to SIPOA concentrating on LSV safety in the August campaign.

Dr. Baylis commented that the citations for moving violations or seat belt violations were materially different from the citations written for an expired LSV registration or failing to display the security pass.

Ms. Asbelle stated her main concern was people operating LSV's that are not covered by an insurance policy, and was further concerned that if an individual gets into an accident with another driver that is not covered by insurance, the liability might fall on SIPOA.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated that one issue that came up at the September meeting was the committee's ability to estimate traffic levels at different times of the day. Mr. Kortvelesy asked Ms. Connelly for access to their traffic cameras located at the security gate.

Ms. Connelly asked what the goal of the committee would be if they had access to security footage.

Mr. Kinne stated the committee could calculate how many LSV's use the public portion of Seabrook Island Road.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated that one goal would be to correct misconceptions. He stated he just went to Freshfields before the meeting, and wasn't stuck behind an LSV, but rather a dump truck.

Ms. Connelly stated that SIPOA plans to have a safety booth at the Thanksgiving Day Parade. She stated SIPOA will hand out LSV safety stickers that can be stuck to the LSV windshield with a safety checklist. She stated some rental companies are already attaching these stickers to their LSV's.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated that one last point he wanted to make was that he recently saw a gentleman operating an LSV with a two-year old in his lap. He stated that people endangering their own life is one issue, but to danger the lives of children is something that he sees far too often.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Preparation of LSV Recommendations

Mr. Kortvelesy stated that it was his understanding that SIPOA had more safety campaigns coming and one of the possible routes the committee could take would be to let those campaigns play out and recommend to the council that no action be taken. He also stated that the committee could consider lowering the speed limit along the entire length of Seabrook Island Road. He stated that ultimately, this may be something to consider in the future due to the unknown traffic impacts of Seafields.

Mr. Kinne stated it was his opinion that the main issue between the SIPOA security gate and the Freshfields traffic circle was the speed differential between vehicular traffic and LSV's. He stated he would support installing pullover lanes for LSV's to allow faster cars to pass.

Mr. Cronin stated the installation of pullover lanes would send the Seabrook Island Road project back to the beginning, including the design and permitting process. Mr. Cronin stated that he anticipates the town having the permits sometime in early 2026. He stated redesigning the project to accommodate the installation of pullover lanes would set the project back by a few years.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked Mr. Cronin if there was still discussion of the installation of a traffic circle at Bohicket Marina.

Mr. Cronin stated there were conversations between the town, Bohicket Marina management, and the landowner of the parcels between town hall and Freshfields. He stated the landowner of the parcels between town hall and Freshfields did not view the traffic circle as a priority, and serious consideration of a traffic circle died.

Mr. Kortvelesy stated, even considering the amount of input that has been received by the committee, it is his recommendation that the committee take no action.

Mr. Kortvelesy made a motion the committee take no action pending further safety campaigns by SIPOA, among other coming projects, seconded by Ms. Asbelle. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Asbelle	aye
Dr. Baylis	aye
Mr. Kinne	nay
Mr. Kortvelesy	aye

Mr. Kortvelesy's motion was APPROVED with three ayes and one nay.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Freshfields Gate Access

Dr. Baylis asked Mr. Cronin if there had been further discussion with Kiawah Island concerning access to Freshfields for residents of Seafields.

Mr. Cronin stated the town has made its position clear. He went on to say that there had been discussions with the town's legal counsel, but stated he had nothing else to add.

October 10 Flooding

Ms. Asbelle asked if Mr. Cronin had a report from the flooding of Friday, October 10.

Mr. Cronin stated the local news claimed the October 10 tide was in the top fifteen on record. He stated there was flooding at the entrance to Bohicket Marina as well as near the SIPOA security gate. Mr. Cronin also stated that although traffic slowed down as Seabrook Island Road was only passable in one lane, traffic was never at a standstill.

LSV Recommendations

Mayor Kleinman thanked the committee for their work in arriving at a recommendation for the LSV safety issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mr. Kortvelesy declared the meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

Peter D. Wiggins II, MPA
Town Clerk