

**TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-17**

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

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF A PERMIT TO AMERICA FILMS OF WILDSTAR FILMS LTD. TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE ON THE BEACH BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 8-22, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, on June 15, 2020, the town received a written request from America Films of Wildstar Films Ltd. to operate a motor vehicle on the beach between the dates of September 8-22, 2020, for the purpose of transporting personnel and equipment to and from Captain Sams Inlet as part of a documentary filming project related to dolphin strand feeding; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 32-42(a) of the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island generally prohibits the driving or operation of any motor vehicle, of any kind or nature, on the beach, except in limited circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 32-42(a)(8) authorizes the town to grant a permit for the operation of motor vehicles on the beach when such vehicles are “deemed essential by the town”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island have determined that the use of a vehicle by America Films of Wildstar Films Ltd., its employees and contractors, is essential to the safe and efficient transport of personnel and equipment;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island have further determined that America Films of Wildstar Films Ltd., its employees and contractors, have demonstrated a commitment to the safe operation of a motor vehicle while on the beach in Seabrook Island;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island hereby authorize America Films of Wildstar Films Ltd., its employees and contractors, to operate a vehicle on the beach between the dates of September 8-22, 2020, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Vehicles using the beach shall be operated in such a manner so as not to endanger beachgoers or wildlife;
- 2) The maximum permissible speed limit on the beach shall be ten (10) miles per hour;
- 3) Vehicles shall be operated on the wet sand and not operated on dry sand or the upper beach other than to gain access to the wet sand;
- 4) Vehicles shall not travel onto or otherwise disturb nesting, designated critical habitat areas, wildlife or marine life;
- 5) Any vehicle operating on the beach must be a four-wheel drive vehicle;

- 6) The applicant shall provide the name, contact information and evidence of liability insurance for any vehicle operator(s) on or before September 1, 2020; and
- 7) The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining separate approval from the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) for access through SIPOA's private security gate.

**SIGNED AND SEALED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, having been duly adopted by the Town Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Gregg, Mayor

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_  
Faye Allbritton, Town Clerk

**FAO /**

Joe Cronin, Town Administrator  
Town of Seabrook Island  
2001, Seabrook Island Road  
Seabrook Island, SC  
29455

**DATE /**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**SUBJECT /**

Seabrook Beach Driving  
Application

Dear Town of Seabrook Island,

America Films of Wildstar Films Ltd. would please like to apply for permission to operate a vehicle on the beaches of Seabrook Island, in order to assist with transportation of our kit for a film shoot as part of the upcoming National Geographic landmark wildlife series 'America' (working title), which will be available to watch internationally in 2021. The south episode of this series will feature a sequence about the South Carolina strand feeding dolphins. We will be working with local camera operator Scott Snider, and supported by Lauren Rust of the Low Country Marine Mammal Network for the duration of this shoot.

This sequence will be a particular celebration of the unique wildlife behaviour found in the Seabrook/Kiawah region – the local scientists have observed an amazing new dolphin behaviour in the waters of your area, which they believe may be completely unique to this dolphin pod. By filming this behaviour, we hope not only to capture a compelling sequence that highlights the amazing biodiversity found in the south regions of America and to remind viewers why it is so important to protect and behave responsibly around these dolphins, but also to capture some footage that will be useful for the scientists so they can better understand what is happening in the dolphin pod. We are also hoping to film some Behind the Scenes content for Nat Geo's social media channels, all about nature conservation and wildlife in the area, to reinforce the natural beauty and positive work carried out by your community.

To encourage viewers to connect with the sequence and to deliver this in the best way possible, we would like to film the dolphins from a number of different angles, including from the shoreline as the dolphins come up to feed. To our knowledge, the dolphins have never been filmed from this angle. As a result, we would please like to apply for permission to drive on the beach, so that we can get our filming kit as close as possible.

We have planned our shoot to take place over two weeks, from the 8<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. We would use the vehicle to drive the kit in to position, to the stretch of the Seabrook beach where the dolphins are known to feed, and then to transport it away again after filming each day, and to occasionally escort crew on/off the beach for food and comfort breaks. We will only be using one four wheel drive vehicle (hired locally or Scott's own vehicle, licence plate to be provided nearer the time). This car will be driven only by Scott Snider, a local camera operator from Folly Beach. He is familiar with the area and at the time of the shoot, he will also have completed a beach driving course as required by Kiawah, in order to film on the opposite side of the water.

Our driver will fully comply and operate the vehicle in accordance with the Town of Seabrook's beach driving rules, as outlined in Sec. 32-42(b) of the Town Code:

*(b) Vehicles using the beach shall be operated in such a manner so as not to endanger beachgoers or wildlife. The maximum permissible speed limit on the beach shall be ten miles per hour. Vehicles shall be operated on the wet sand and not operated on dry sand or the upper beach other than to gain access to the wet sand. Vehicles shall not travel onto or otherwise disturb nesting, designated critical habitat areas, wildlife or marine life.*

Scott will be fully briefed about these requirements prior to filming.

Thank you for considering our request and we would be happy to provide any additional information if required.

Yours faithfully,

Olivia Frost

**Researcher**

**America Films | Wildstar Films LTD.**