

MAYOR:
John Labriola

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:
Stephanie Monroe Tillerson

TOWN ATTORNEY:
Joseph Wilson



TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS:
John Moffitt
Bradley D. Belt
Michael Heidingsfelder
Russell A. Berner

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Council Chambers and via Zoom
February 15, 2023; 2:00 PM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order:**
- II. Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. Minutes of the September 14, 2022 Environmental Committee Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the November 9, 2022 Environmental Committee Meeting
- III. Citizen's Comments:**
- IV. Presentation:**
 - A. Abby Sterling, Manomet, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Designation Process
- V. Old Business:**
 - A. Shorebird Stewardship Program
 - B. Grow Native
 - C. Rodenticides/Wildlife
 - D. Deer Management
 - E. Kiawah Conservancy Projects
 - F. Clemson PhD Bobcat Anticoagulant Study
 - G. Marsh Management Plan
- VI. New Business:**
 - A. 2023 Kiawah Conservancy Projects Discussion
 - B. 2023 Kiawah Conservancy Land Acquisition Discussion
 - C. Kiawah Go Green 2.0
- VII. Reports:**
 - A. Town of Kiawah Island
 - B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management
 - C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort
 - D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board
 - E. Kiawah Conservancy
 - F. Turtle Patrol
- VIII. Citizen Comments:**
- IX. Chairman's Comments:**
- X. Committee Member Comments:**
- XI. Adjournment:**

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Zoom

September 14, 2022, 2:00 pm

Minutes

I. **Call to Order: Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.**

Present: Jim Jordan, Chairman
Jim Chitwood
Lynne Sager
KINHC: Lee Bundrick
Jack Kotz
KICA: Matt Hill
KIGR: Liz King

Absent: Jane Ellis
Pam Wilson
ARB: Tommy Manuel
TOKI: Aaron Given

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Minutes of the July 13, 2022 Environmental Committee Meeting

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

III. **Old Business**

A. Shorebird Stewardship Program

Mr. Jordan stated that the program is still active and, at this time of the year, is focused on the Piping Plovers, an endangered species that winters on Kiawah beaches. The group is in the beginning stage of planning a conference/symposium taking place next spring. Funding for the event has already been secured, and Mr. Given will provide more information in the future.

B. Grow Native

No new information.

C. Rodenticides/Wildlife

Mr. Jordan stated that samples continued to be collected, but there was no new data to share.

D. Deer Management

Mr. Jordan stated that the first surveys would be in October, followed by a second in December or January. After reviewing the numbers, a decision will be made on the need for deer removal.

E. Kiawah Conservancy Projects

Mr. Bundrick stated that the two projects presented to the Committee were approved for funding by Town Council in August. He indicated that work would be done with the College of

Charleston and Weston and Sampson Engineering to fulfill some project outcomes and objectives. Work has begun on the contract details and should be finalized and signed by the end of September or early October, with most of the project objectives completed by the end of June.

F. Clemson Ph.D. Bobcat Anticoagulant Study

Mr. Jordan stated that the spring/summer fieldwork on the project continues, which includes the collection of scat samples and monitoring. The student and her intern have several cameras in locations on the island, taking pictures to quantify the number and abundance of larger prey species on the island. The pictures are downloaded approximately every two weeks.

Mr. Jordan stated the use of track pots began in the past week. They are small boxes with an attractant inside designed to pick up the tracks of small mammals and used to survey small mammal populations.

Mr. Jordan stated the students would begin bobcat trapping in October at Yawkey, with the Kiawah trappings beginning in January/February.

G. Marsh Management Plan

Mr. Jordan stated that Mr. Taylor and the consultants continue working on developing the Town's Comprehensive Marsh Management Plan. The hope is to have a draft in the next few months for the Committee to review and provide feedback.

IV. New Business

A. None

V. Reports:

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan reported on the following:

📅 2021 Bobcats

- 2 out of 6 (33%) bobcats have died, 1 with working collar

📅 2022 Bobcats

- 7 captured (6 with working collars) – all bobcats are doing well, showing that efforts like the *Bobcat Guardian* program have made a difference.
 - ✓ Bobcat 650 – 2/2 – Adult Male, Captain Sams, 20lbs 15oz. New cat.
 - ✓ Bobcat 700 – 2/5 – Subadult Female, Preserve, 12lbs 2oz. New cat.
 - ✓ Bobcat 750 – 2/3 – Juvenile Male, Flyway/Canvasback, 14lbs, 8oz. PIT was tagged as a kitten on 5-11-21 on Flyway Drive.
 - ✓ Bobcat 800 – 2/5 – Adult Male, Ocean Park, 21lbs 3oz. Recapture from 2021 (Bobcat 250)
 - ✓ Bobcat 850 – 2/8 – Juvenile Female, Flyway/Canvasback, 12lbs 10z. PIT was tagged as a kitten on 5-11-21 on Flyway Drive.
 - ✓ Bobcat 900 – 3/10 – Subadult Female, Flyway/Osprey Beach, 12lbs 3 oz. New cat.
 - ✓ Bobcat 5002 – 3/10 – Juvenile Male, The Preserve, 17lbs 5 oz. New cat.

- ✚ Bobcat Guardian and Grow Native weeks:
 - Bobcat week begins October 10 –
 - Bobcat Guardian repledge
 - Activities planned throughout the week
 - Walking tours
 - Panel discussions and talks
 - Native Plant week begins October 17
- ✚ Fall migration banding began on August 15th.

2022 Fall Cumulative Banding	Captain	Little Bear	TOTAL
# Birds Banded	640	471	1,111
# of Recaptures	185	113	298
# of Species	39	38	48
Effort (net-hours)	3,696.42	1,834.75	5531.17
Capture Rate (birds/100 net-hours)	22.3	31.8	25.5
# of Days	27	20	

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Hill reported that the annual alligator survey was done in August. The survey showed a stable population of approximately 750 alligators on the island.

Mr. Hill commented on the recent rainfall on the island. His rain gauge at the maintenance facility showed 5.25 inches fell the previous Friday, during high tide and on a king tide. Doing more research, he found that following a very dry spring and early summer, the island received a total of 28.5 inches of rain in July, August, and September. Approximately 48 to 50 inches of rain is received in an average year. For this year, approximately 42 inches have fallen.

Mr. Hill reported the annual fish tissue testing, looking for heavy metals and pesticides, would be conducted at the end of September or early October.

Mr. Hill stated that Lucas Hernandez started flood mitigation projects along the Parkway while still with KICA. Mr. Hill reported that during all the heavy rain, the Parkway fair very well with almost no issues. The issues were in the Governors Drive area, where projects are underway or have not begun.

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

No report

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

No report

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Bundrick reported that preparation is underway for Bobcat week and Native Plant week, and he would conduct some walking tours and talks. There will be a native plant sale at Night Heron Park during the week.

Mr. Bundrick noted that several Conservancy staff members are working on their Rain Garden Certification for the Master Rain Garden Class with Clemson Extension. Completion of the certification should be in October.

F. Turtle Patrol

Ms. Sager reported the season was close to an end with very few nests left to hatch and stated that the final number of nests was 491. She also noted that Turtle Patrol was excited to be able to hold its end-of-the-year dinner for the first time in two years on November 9th at the Sandcastle.

VI. Citizen Comments:

None

VII. Chairman's Comments:

None

VIII. Committee Member Comments:

Mr. Kotz stated that many of the local photographers have been getting great photographs of dolphins strand feeding. He questioned if this was a sign of a more active season. Mr. Jordan stated that the Town has dolphin stewards in the inlet area that provide information to onlookers and keep records on stranding events. The data on the season's activity would be reflected in the annual report provided by Ms. Rust.

IX. Adjournment:

Ms. Sager motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bundrick and unanimously passed.

Submitted by,

Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Jim Jordan, Chairman

Date