

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2011 3:00 P.M.
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: Dr. VanDerwerker called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

II. FOIA: Notice of this meeting has been published and posed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

III. Roll Call:

Present: **Greg VanDerwerker, Chair**
 David Elliott
 Jim Chitwood
 Dale Anderson
 Lois Bryant, ARB
 Liz King, KIGR
 Charles Davis
 Norm Shea, KICA Lakes
 Dave Achey, KICA Lands
 Jim Jordan, TOKI
 Aaron Given, TOKI

Also Present: **Lakesha Shannon, Town Clerk**

IV. Minutes:

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2011
Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of March 7, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis, and passed unanimously.

V. Old Business:

A. Update on Vegetation/Invasive Plant Survey
Committee members met with Mr. Joe Gramling on March 16th to discuss the proposed Vegetation/Invasive Plant Survey. A funding request of \$22,535 has been submitted for consideration in the upcoming Ways and Means Committee Budget Workshop.

Mr. Jordan stated that he and Mr. Shea are working to schedule a Nuisance Wildlife Training Session.

VI. New Business:

A. Communications Regarding 2010 Development Agreement

Mr. Chitwood motioned to approve the Committee's recommendation to submit the correspondences from Mr. Dave Elliott and the Conservancy regarding the 2010 Development Agreement to the ARB for their files. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson, and passed unanimously.

B. Funding for Eastern Screech Owl Nest Boxes & Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Replacement

Mr. Given stated that he is interesting in pursuing an Eastern Screech Owl Project. Mr. Given plans to set-up five nest boxes in the preserve area, which will be much easier than his current process of catching the owls with miss nets. Mr. Given commented that he could build the nest boxes at a cost of \$55 each, which covers lumber, the post and a predator guard.

Dr. VanDerwerker motioned to recommend the approval of \$275 for five screech owl nest boxes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bryant, and carried unanimously.

C. Audubon Important Bird Area Nomination

Mr. Given stated that he was contacted by Ms. Ann Shahid, of Audubon South Carolina, regarding their interest in having part of Kiawah Island nominated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Mr. Given proposed nominating areas such as Captain Sam's Spit or the East End, which encompasses the Renourishment Project. He noted that there is no charge for the designation and Audubon South Carolina would advocate to protect the area from any threats. Audubon South Carolina would also provide signage to designate the areas. Mr. Given provided a brief overview of the criteria for becoming an Important Bird Area, and noted that there are currently 49 IBA locations in South Carolina.

The Committee discussed other possible areas for nomination and suggested that Ms. Shahid meet with the Committee to provide more information about the IBA designation. Mr. Given will follow up with Ms. Shahid and report back to the Committee.

D. 2011 Bobcat Management Plan

Mr. Jordan provided the Committee with the 2011 Bobcat Management Plan and requested any suggestions. Mr. Chitwood commented that the Bobcat Management guidelines have a very large impact on the Island and have resulted in more land being preserved as well as changes in KICA guidelines regarding vegetation.

VII. Correspondences

None

VIII. Citizen Comments

None

IX. Committee Member Comments

TOKI - Mr. Given

Mr. Given commented that he would like to use an area of the Town Hall parking lot to create a demonstration area of an ideal lot. This area will include items such as: placards, birdfeeders and houses, and plants which will be a very useful example for landscapers and residents. Mr. Achey agreed to draw a plan and assist with this project.

Wildlife Report-TOKI

Mr. Jordan reported that 8 bobcat collars were deployed this year (5 females, 3 males) and one female juvenile has died. Monthly downloads are currently being received from all bobcats; however, they will begin receiving weekly downloads from the 4 females to track denning.

Mr. Chitwood requested to know what time of day bobcats are most likely to be hit by a car. Mr. Jordan responded that they are hit mostly at night.

Mr. Chitwood suggested that a lower speed limit be considered on the Island at night for safety reasons. The Committee agreed to submit this concern to the KICA Safety and Security Committee for discussion.

Mr. Jordan reported that the bird banding season final reports are complete and available on the wildlife website. There were 5 winter banding sessions conducted from January 17th – March 14th. There were a total of 177 new birds captured, and 66 recaptured. There were a total of 11 species captured with the top 3 being the yellow-rumped warbler (206), the gray catbird (12), and the song sparrow (6). Spring banding is being conducted from March 30th – May 31st. There were 2 sessions completed with 11 new birds, 8 recaptures and 11 species.

Mr. Jordan reported that on March 22nd, he and Mr. Given assisted researchers from SCDNR, USFWS, and NJDEP in capturing red knots. He stated that about 300 red knots were captured, 50 recaptured, and over 100 were banded. He also noted that 3 geolocators were recovered during the banding session.

Mr. Jordan stated that traps and fencing are currently being installed for the College of Charleston Reptile/Amphibian Study, and data collection should begin in April.

Mr. Given will begin an Amphibian Call Survey this month to monitor night calls of frogs and toads. He added that amphibians tend to be very good indicators of any type of pollution or environmental issues.

Mr. Jordan reported that there were 4,200 visits to the wildlife website in March. He also stated that all 2011 Bobcat data is available on the website. Mr. Jordan stated that he has received a draft 2010 Beach Report which shows that all sections of the beach are gaining sand with the exception of the far eastern area near the Stono River.

Turtle Patrol

Mr. Anderson reported that the Turtle Patrol Committee will meet next week.

KICA Land

Mr. Achey stated that the KICA Land’s Department will be looking for volunteers from all Town entities to help focus on the creation of a Tallow Tree Removal Program. Dr. VanDerwerker suggested that the group be referred to as an Invasive Plant Control Committee, because threatening invasive plants other than tallow trees may be discovered.

Mr. Achey stated that KICA will be participating in the Road/River Cleanup and Earthfest.

Mr. Achey reported that KICA is currently working on bedlines and turf on the Parkway and Ocean Course Drive. He stated that they have capped of about 40 popup sprinkler heads which will help with water conservation savings. Mr. Achey stated that KICA is looking to designate a site for mulching and pruning of debris, because the site they previously used has become unavailable.

Mr. Achey provided an update on KICA’s Contractor Recertification. The recertification totals to date are: 137 signed up, 111 passed, and 6 Spanish versions have been taken. Mr. Achey commented that he has been very pleased with the process.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Submitted by,

Lakesha Y. Shannon, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Greg A. VanDerwerker, Chairman

Date