

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2008; 3:00PM
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
Minutes**

- I. Call to Order: Mr. Lipuma called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.**
- II. FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published, and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

III. Roll Call:

Present: Charles Lipuma
Jim Chitwood
Nancy Jackson, ARB
Sarah Latshaw, KIGR
Liz King, KIGR
Eric Rice, TOKI
Norm Shea, KICA
Bill Connellee
Dave Achey, KICA
David Elliott
Dale Anderson

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Town Clerk

Absent: Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator
Jim Jordan, TOKI

- IV. Mr. Lipuma moved without objection to postpone Item A: State of the Beach 2007 Power Point Presentation until Mr. Jim Jordan could be present. Mr. Lipuma noted that Mr. Jordan was at home with his new daughter, Autumn, and wife.**

Mr. Lipuma added Item A: Habitat Improvement Initiative, under New Business

- V. Minutes:** Environmental Committee Meeting for December 11, 2007.

Mr. Chitwood motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. Mr. Connellee and Mr. Lipuma made corrections to the minutes. With those corrections the minutes were approved unanimously.

VI. Old Business:

A. Jewels in the Crown Draft Article

Mr. Chitwood and Mr. Achey authored article 4 of the series. Mr. Rice stated that there will be photographs displaying the natural environment of Kiawah that accompany the article in the next edition of Town Notes. Mr. Rice stated that if any committee members had any changes or additions they would like to make to the article, they could drop by his office and discuss the changes with him. Mr. Lipuma stated that he thought this article made several great points; especially in naming plants that are native to this area. Mr. Lipuma stated that the native plants listed require little care and are naturally insect and disease resistant. Mr. Rice stated that these plants are not costly to maintain.

VII. New Business:

A. Habitat Improvement Initiative

Mr. Chitwood discussed the Environmental Science Committee's lot ranking program, formally discussed under the name of "Medallion Program" and stated that the Environmental Science Committee is trying to gain the support of various groups on the Island. Mr. Chitwood stated that this initiative has been almost ten years in the making and never before has it had so much support. Mr. Chitwood presented the committee with a written description of the program and a scoring/rating sheet. Mr. Chitwood stated that the Jewels in the Crown articles have forced the committees working on the program to work harder and faster in order to prepare them for public release. Mr. Chitwood stated that a workable Habitat Improvement Initiative program should be developed and ready for implementation as early as May of 2008. Mr. Chitwood said the two determinants of habitat quality are: 1) Protection of undeveloped land through easements and conservation, and; 2) Convincing property owners to incorporate a landscape design that will achieve the maximum habitat value of their lot/land.

Mr. Chitwood stated that the ARB has been reluctant to approve any types of signage; e.g. medallions, in the past, but they have never been presented with a project proposal that was as crisp and together as this one is now. Mr. Chitwood explained that the habitat initiative program has four major components: 1) Education and Information; 2) Assessment and Improvement Opportunities; 3) Expert Help, and; 4) Recognition. Mr. Rice stated that the program has a mock-website now and it should be up and running very soon. He stated that this website will have forum concept which allows users to post or search for questions and receive expert answers. The website will also have a list of native and acceptable plants as well as a list of invasive species that would be harmful to the island's habitat.

Ms. Jackson stated that in a meeting with Ms. Amanda Mole, ARB, Ms. Mole stated that no signage or medallions would be approved for mailbox placement. However, a marker or stone that was level to the ground and did not extend past the grass height may be something that would be considered. Mr. Chitwood asked Ms. Jackson if she had an

opportunity to discuss the program details with the ARB. Ms. Jackson stated that she had not discussed any details. Mr. Chitwood suggested that the program should be presented to the ARB in full detail before giving up the medallion idea.

Mr. Chitwood stated that habitat landscape recognition will only be recognized for a period of five years. After five years, owners will need to re-submit their lot for recognition. Mr. Chitwood explained that the time limit was necessary because vegetation and ownership are constantly changing. Mr. Chitwood stated that the group is also searching for ways to provide recognition to the different entities on the island for habitat improvement they do.

Mr. Anderson stated that for this program to work, property owners that make habitat improvements are going to require a physical marker or notice; they will want something that distinguishes their property from the next. Mr. Lipuma stated that the program description that Mr. Chitwood presented to the committee was a great document and explained the program clearly.

VIII. Committee Members Reports:

Charlie Lipuma, Chair

Mr. Lipuma stated that the Environmental Committee received a Palmetto Pride grant for \$500.00. These funds will be used to replace a dilapidated bench on Beachwalker drive. Mr. Lipuma also stated that for next months meeting the committee would discuss the “green” initiative in more detail.

Eric Rice, TOKI

Mr. Rice presented the monthly wildlife report for 1-11-07 through 1-15-08 (See attached). He also presented a picture of a deceased coyote that was hit on Kiawah Island Parkway near the Cassique entrance.

Sarah Latshaw, KIGR

Ms. Latshaw stated that she and Mr. Scot Fister, KIGR, were successful in their attempt to have the recycling emblem placed on the official visitor’s map.

Dave Achey

Mr. Achey stated that the project on Governor’s Drive will be finished within the next two weeks.

Dale Anderson

No Comment.

Bill Connellee

No Comment.

Norm Shea, KICA

Mr. Shea presented his monthly report concerning the lakes on Kiawah Island. (See Attached)

David Elliott

Mr. Elliott stated that the preview showing of “The Curious Mr. Catesby” was presented at the Sanctuary on December 28th at 6:00 p.m. and had a crowd of 500.

Jim Chitwood

No Comment.

Nancy Jackson

No Comment.

Liz King

Ms. King stated that she has heard that the Town has adopted a “green” office policy and that other entities on the island are following the same route. She asked if this movement is something that the Environmental Committee should take charge of. She also asked if the environmental committee did not take the recycling initiative, then which group should be responsible for it. Ms. King also stated that a local builder that is experienced in solar heating will be giving a presentation at Nigh Heron Park on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 2:00PM.

IX. Citizen Comments:

None

X. Adjournment: Mr. Elliott motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:27PM. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by: _____
Catherine Wilson

Approved by: _____
Charles R. Lipuma

CC: William Wert, Mayor
Tumiko Rucker
Town Council