

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2010; 3:00PM  
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER  
UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order: Mr. McHugh 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:**           **Harry McHugh, Chairman**  
                          **Dale Anderson**  
                          **Jim Chitwood**  
                          **David Elliott**  
                          **Norm Shea, KICA Lakes**  
                          **Dave Achey, KICA Land Management**  
                          **Aaron Given, TOKI**  
                          **Liz King, KIGR**  
                          **Aaron Given, TOKI**
- Absent:**           **Lois Bryant**  
                          **Jim Jordan, TOKI**
- Also Present:**   **Cathy Wilson, Town Clerk**
- IV. Minutes:**
- A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2009**  
**Mr. Elliott motioned to approve the minutes of November 3, 2009. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.**
- V. Old Business:**
- A. Green Initiatives**  
**Kiawah Island Trash Collection System**  
Mr. McHugh stated that the collections system is in place and the condominiums have joined. All condominiums have signed on however only one association has established a centralized location on their property. At this time, others are moving toward a centralized location. The Town has measured the quantity of recycled materials and there has been a 10% increase in 2009 compared to 2008. Those materials were measured by weight. Mr. Chitwood asked if any changes would occur at the individual home sites. Mr. McHugh stated that the only change is the availability of the larger, wheeled recycling bins.

**VI. New Business:**

None

**VII. Committee Member Comments;**

**Mr. Chitwood**

Mr. Chitwood stated that KICA now has a Sweetgrass Award for properties that meet specifications for “habitat friendly” landscaping. Mr. Achey stated that KICA is the first non-individual owner Sweetgrass Award winner for the area located between Governors and Sawgrass. Mr. Chitwood stated that this award recognizes property that is well vegetated for habitat and large organizations are encouraged to apply.

**David Elliott**

Mr. Elliott stated that the Naturalist Group will be taking a tour of Camp St. Christopher to view the amazing maritime forest. The tour costs \$25 dollars and includes lunch. Also, The Natural History Group of Seabrook has funded a Tallow Tree removal project for Camp St. Christopher. They will be able to demonstrate the damaging effects of Tallow Trees.

A University of SC professor will be giving Catesby lecture at the Sandcastle and will bring an actual copy of a first edition of Catesby’s work.

**Wildlife**

Mr. Given stated that there were two wildlife calls between November and January 3, 2010. An injured deer was euthanized on 11-3-09 and a hawk was captured and released from a screened porch in November.

Piping Plover surveys averaged 18.1 birds per survey with the East End averaging 10.6 birds per survey. Bobcat research continues with four cats with monthly downloads. A bobcat was hit and killed on 11-24-09. Trapping began on December 3 with one juvenile male kitten, Bobcat 090, captured. Bird monitoring (banding) continues. A common Yellowthroat was banded on Kiawah on 11.3.09 and was found dead on 11/4/09 in Ormond Beach, FL. Year to date there have been 850 new birds, 112 recaptures, and 3 recoveries. There are 53 species with the top five species being: 1) Gray Catbird with 168, Common Yellowthroat with 142, Yellow-rumped Warbler with 82, Northern Cardinal with 56, and the Red-eyed vireo with 45. The new wildlife website is up and running at [www.wildlifekiawah.com](http://www.wildlifekiawah.com) and is being regularly updated. The site also has bobcat GPS added and viewable in Google Earth. Mr. Elliott stated that he is intrigued by the varying species of warbler on the Island. Mr. Given stated that he is interested to view the spring migration numbers. Bird monitoring will begin again the second week of January. Mr. Given stated that he spotted a Snowy Plover on the East End that was also

spotted on the Folly beach side. Mr. Shea stated that there were Red Head Ducks at Sparrow Pond.

### **KIGR Marathon**

Mrs. King stated that the Marathon was very successful and the individual winners received their names on a plaque in the Butterfly Garden. Staff did a wonderful job recycling and composting at the event. Food was also donated to Crisis Ministries. Mrs. King wanted to make sure that the Environmental Committee is giving the appropriate response about removal of dead trees because they are very beneficial to wildlife.

### **KICA Lakes Management**

Mr. Shea stated that KICA has formed a new property owner/member committee deemed the "Green Team." This group will be reviewing KICA's internal activities and develop more effective operating methods. KICA will also be reviewing alternative transportation sources, LEED certified building, among other sustainable items. There was an alligator removed from an Osprey Point storm drain. On December 31 a 10' deceased alligator was removed from a storm drain. He stated that due to the cold weather, he is preparing for a Tilapia kill in the ponds that may not surface until warmer weather. The last large fish die-off was in 1996. In 2009 there were less than 20lbs of fish killed.

### **KICA Land Management**

Mr. Achey stated that an irrigation contractor will be out in January to install new irrigation controllers at the Preserve that will alert a controller on the need to water. If no watering is needed, it will not be watered. The contractor says it will save at minimum 35% water consumption. The equipment is \$25,000 for 13 controllers. KICA will be encouraging the backyard habitat areas. He stated that information on backyard habitat will be published in the digest and hopefully in Town Notes. Mr. McHugh asked the type of resident feedback they have received on the native or no-mow areas. Mr. Achey stated that a lot of people are concerned about the impact on their property values and they are trying to explain that it will enhance the value in the long-term.

Mr. Shea stated that the USGS monument marker was destroyed during the parkway work and that a replacement will be placed within the next few weeks.

Mr. Achey continues to monitor the landscaping on the Kiawah Island Parkway. He stated that his main concerns are with the early planting of the sod. He also stated that mulching will be expensive to upkeep.

### **Cougar Point Golf Course**

Mr. Andy Steele stated that he wanted to join the talk about the backyard habitat especially on the homes that have backyards on the course. The

Cougar Point Course is attempting to minimize mowing and allow natural growth. He stated that he would like to meet with some of the other groups to discuss the natural habitat movement.

Mr. Elliott posed, as a broad question, the idea of mass communication and the correct process. He stated that it is an item that could be considered in the future.

**Turtle Report**

Mr. Anderson stated that the Turtle Patrol is working with DNR and fine-tuning the data for the turtle site.

**Capt'n Sams**

Mr. McHugh stated that he has heard unofficially that KDP has backed off of the development of Capt'n Sam's. The sheetpile project was denied by OCRM earlier in the year.

**VIII. Citizen Comments:**

None

**IX. Adjournment:**

**Mr. Chitwood motioned to adjourn at 4:10pm. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Submitted by,**

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**Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk**

**Approved by,**

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**Harry McHugh, Chairman**

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**Date**