

**Environmental Committee Meeting
January 5, 2009; 3:00 PM
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Upstairs 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, Chair
Dale Anderson
David Elliott
Jim Chitwood
Jim Jordan, TOKI
Norm Shea, KICA
Dave Achey, KICA
Liz King, KIGR
Lois Bryant, ARB
- Also Present: Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk
Andy Steele, Cougar Point Golf Course
- Absent: Aaron Given, TOKI
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator
- IV. Mr. Lipuma motioned to add Item A-1, Kiawah River Revetment, to Old Business. Mrs. Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
- V. Minutes:**
A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2008
Mr. Elliott moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2008. Mrs. Bryant seconded the motion. Mr. Elliott changed the word “motioned” to “moved”. With those changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.
- VI. Old Business**
- A1. Kiawah River Revetment**
Mr. Lipuma stated that on December 18, 2008 OCRM issued a permit decision for KDP’s Kiawah River Revetment and Bulkhead. He was notified by a friend of the OCRM decision and at that time asked Mrs. Rucker to contact Bill Eiser with OCRM in order to

obtain a copy of the permit and letter. Notices were sent only to those who spoke against the permit request. OCRM faxed a copy of the documents to the Town on January 2, 2009. They approved 270' of an erosion control structure. KDP originally requested 2783'. The 270' is along the County's Beachwalker Park and that the erosion is threatening the parking lot. Mr. Lipuma stated that he was disappointed that the Town was not on the list to receive this notice. He assumes that KDP will appeal this decision. Also, there may be unhappy people with the 270' approval due to turtle nesting in that general area.

Mr. Elliott asked what action the Town can take in order to make sure they are informed of these decisions and not ignored.

Mr. Lipuma explained that he will raise the question at the Town Council meeting and recommend Mrs. Rucker send Mr. Bill Eiser (OCRM) a letter officially requesting notification for all permit applications involving the Town.

Mr. Lipuma asked Jim Jordan to find out what motivated OCRM's decision and why 270' were approved. Mr. Jordan stated that based on a previous conversation with Mr. Eiser, the reasoning behind the decision was that Mr. Eiser was only recommending approval of the revetment along the County Park area, the only area that has a threatened structure (the parking lot).

Mr. McHugh asked if the Town had any indication of KDP's intention to actually construct the revetment. Mr. Lipuma stated that to his knowledge, as soon as permitted they would begin construction. Also, it is his assumption that they will contest the partial approval.

A. Beach Parking Update

Mr. Lipuma stated that he has received no update from Mr. Roger Warren and that the Resort is waiting on a reply from the office in Richmond.

B. Green Initiatives

Mrs. King stated that the Resort recycled during the New Years special events including the oyster shells from the oyster roast. The Resort is still going through the many bags of shoes collected during the Marathon for donation to the Soles for Souls organization. Mrs. King explained that wearable shoes will be donated to local charities as well. The Nature Center still accepts fluorescent bulbs and batteries for recycling. The Resort hopes to have recycling available at Night Heron Park before the Easter holiday. The Resort will host an E-Waste collection day in the spring.

Mr. Elliott proposed that the Committee take on a new strategic initiative, much like Jewels in the Crown, but focusing on the economic and popular sustainability of recycling. Mr. Elliott stated that he would like the Committee to take the time to think about what efforts can be made to ensure that the recycling initiatives are long-term.

Mr. Lipuma stated that would be an interesting topic for the Committee to consider as a strategic initiative.

Mr. Anderson asked if there was an update to the Parkway and Bikepath project and commented on the positive environmental affects the bikepath offers. Mr. Lipuma stated that it seems the Town is now to the point where construction can begin in the first part of the year but that he is not at liberty to discuss any further details. He explained that when the Town took ownership of the Parkway, there was wording in the deed that KRA/KDP would have final approval on design aspects.

Mr. Lipuma stated that he had spoken with Carol Settle and she is pushing for recycling at Freshfields. Mrs. Settle is open to all ideas that will help facility Freshfields recycling.

VI. New Business:

None

VIII. Committee Member Comments:

Mr. Lipuma

Mr. Lipuma explained that the Mayor is making Council Member assignments to Committees and introduced Mr. Harry McHugh, who will become the Environmental Committee Chairman in February 2009. Mr. Lipuma will remain the chair of the Arts Council. Mr. Orban will be chair of the Ways and Means and Public Safety Committees. Mr. Burnaford will be the Planning Commission Liaison, as well as external affairs.

Mr. Chitwood

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Committee will greatly miss Mr. Lipuma's leadership and his guidance has been well respected.

Mr. Chitwood stated that he spoke at the KICA meeting for the Bobcat Management Guidelines and his specific goal was to request conservation easements on four important bobcat denning habitat areas on the Island. Mr. Chitwood stated that Cougar Point Golf Course is an excellent example of how to create a plan in coordination with the Bobcat Management Guidelines.

Liz King, KIGR

Mrs. King asked if the west end of the beach, at Captain Sam's, had accreted at the same pace of erosion. She stated over the past 20 years, the river side has eroded by 150ft and the ocean side has accreted 150ft.

Mr. Jordan stated that the land had eroded more than accreted, but not significantly. Mr. Jordan explained that the "narrow section has gotten narrower."

Mr. Lipuma stated that Leonard Long, of KDP, claims erosion and accretion are equal. A new aerial map won't be available until 2010, and at that time the Town will have a clear indication.

Jim Jordan, TOKI

Wildlife Calls - (3)

- 12-15-08 Injured female deer (struck by car) by Mingo Point gate.
- 12-19-08 Injured male deer (struck by car) in pond by Real Estate Sales Center along Beachwalker Dr.
- 12-22-08 Female deer struck and killed by car at Governor's Drive/Surfsong.

Piping Plover Surveys

- 6 surveys completed August 2008 (Average – 17.5 birds per survey)
- 6 surveys completed September 2008 (Average – 18.7 birds per survey)
- 6 surveys completed October 2008 (Average – 20.0 birds per survey)
- 2 surveys completed November 2008 (Average – 11.0 birds per survey)
- 2 surveys completed December 2008 (Average – 16.5 birds per survey)
- East End Average per survey
 - 2006 – 13
 - 2007 – 4
 - 2008 - 11

Bobcat GPS Research

- Collar manufacturing has been delayed again
- Collars to be delivered by end of January
- Trapping to start early February

Bobcat Conservation on Kiawah Island

- Bobcat Management Guidelines and Action Plan document available
- KINHC scheduling meetings with other golf courses and entities in the coming months

Norm Shea, KICA

Mr. Shea stated that Mr. Jordan did an excellent job presenting the “State of the Beach” status report to the KICA Board of Directors. Eason Diving carried out removal of sediment in Ponds 16 and 23 and adjoining pipe. Work was completed on January 2. Work continues on the creation of new “originals” for the nature placards and looking for a new company for production. The total rainfall for 2008 was 38.64 inches, or 15% below the normal 45.25 inches.

Dave Achey, KICA

Mr. Achey stated that he plans to visit one site per week for Plant Rescues. The Tallow Tree team will meet once a week on Fridays, weather permitting. KICA hopes to map out 5% new sites for reforestation in 2009.

Jim Chitwood

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Bobcat Management Guideline booklet is a great document and that they are trying to implement it as much as feasible. The Conservancy is also focusing on purchasing of additional lots. Mr. Chitwood stated that the Conservancy has had great success with Cougar Point Golf Course and their habitat creation and

improvements. Mr. Chitwood met with Mr. Roger Warren on December 15, 2008 to discuss habitat improvement possibilities on the other courses.

IX. Citizen Comments:

Andy Steele, Cougar Point Golf Course,

Areas along Cougar Point have been seeded with wildflowers and all pruning and trimming debris will be used as mulch along the course.

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:08pm. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Catherine C. Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Charles R. Lipuma, Chairman

Date