

TIDE COMMITTEE
February 4, 2026
3:00 p.m.
Edisto Beach Town Hall

Minutes

Present

Gary Cantrell, Chair; Edey Graves, Vice-Chair; Allen Bridwell, Ron Johnson, Camille Lemon, Lisa White, Members

Others Present

Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Municipal Clerk Donna Rizer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cantrell at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. White made a motion to approve the TIDE Committee meeting minutes of December 3, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lemon and approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

The Committee conducted the election of officers for 2026,

Chair: A motion was made by Ms. Graves to reappoint Mr. Cantrell as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lemon and approved unanimously.

Vice Chair: A motion was made by Ms. White to reappoint Ms. Graves as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lemon and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Turtle Sign

The committee revisited the idea of posting turtle-shaped signs outlining sea turtle protection rules. At the previous meeting, members were asked to gather additional information, and the committee returned to the topic at this meeting.

Mr. Aakhus reported he spoke with Kyle Bullock, manager of Edisto Beach State Park; Mr. Watts, Town Council Member and Member of the Edisto Beach Loggerhead Turtle Project (EBLTP); and Mr. Kizer, Town Council Member. All expressed support for the turtle sign project; however, no formal direction was provided.

It was suggested the committee consider a pilot program, potentially installing five (5) or more signs at strategic locations or beach access points. Ms. Lemon indicated she will ask Kristi Summers, current EBLTP permit holder, to attend the March TIDE meeting to offer guidance regarding potential placement of the signs.

New Business/Open Discussion

Dog Park Feasibility

Mr. Cantrell noted there has been community interest in having a dog park, and the issue was discussed at the Edisto Beach Property Owners Association (EBPOA) meeting. The concept of a community dog park was proposed in the 2021 Recreational Master Plan.

Mr. Aakhus noted Tract M has been identified as the most feasible location for a dog park; however, several impacts must be considered before moving forward, including land use and insurance costs. The tract is currently being used as a staging area for four Town projects, and it is used as a debris site after major storms.

During the January 29, 2026, Town Council Goal-Setting Retreat, Council agreed to engage the TIDE Committee to develop actionable recommendations regarding the feasibility of a dog park. Mr. Aakhus suggested the committee take up the matter once the equipment currently being housed on Tract M has been removed.

Town Administrator Updates

Mr. Aakhus provided the following updates:

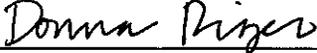
- Town Council approved the pollinator garden project recommended by the TIDE Committee, with funding approved by the ATAX Advisory Board. Soil samples have been taken, and the contract is being finalized. Mr. Johnson agreed to take some before-and-after photographs of Jungle Road Park.
- Palmetto trees are currently being trimmed in Town parks as part of routine annual maintenance. Committee members identified additional areas where vegetation may require trimming.
- Ms. Graves attended the Town Council Goal-Setting Retreat and reported the EBPOA expressed concerns regarding tree removal. Council suggested the TIDE Committee evaluate current regulations and develop policy recommendations to address these concerns. The committee will receive a copy of the current tree ordinance following the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bridwell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY TIDE COMMITTEE



Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
March 4, 2026