

**TIDE COMMITTEE**  
**April 1, 2026**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Edisto Beach Town Hall**

**Minutes**

**Present**

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

**Others Present**

Town Council Member Jerome Kizer, Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Assistant Town Administrator Dee Stalvey, Code Enforcement Officer Morgan Viars, 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. Graves made a motion to approve the TIDE Committee meeting minutes of March 4, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. White and approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

Mr. Aakhus shared the following updates with the committee:

- The pollinator garden project is under contract. The contractor has begun preliminary work, including soil sampling and plant preparation.
- The SCDOT contractor is currently resurfacing Jungle Road and Dock Site Road. The project is expected to take several weeks to complete.
- At the next ATAX Meeting, the police department will request funding for the installation of updated life rings along the beach, consistent with those used at the state park, to enhance safety, provide a more uniform appearance, and ensure year-round availability.
- Options to implement e-waste services are being explored in accordance with the committee's recommendations.

**Turtle Sign Installation**

The committee revisited the idea of posting turtle-shaped signs outlining sea turtle protection rules. At its previous meeting, members considered a pilot program to potentially install five (5) or more turtle signs at strategic locations and consulted the Edisto Beach Loggerhead Turtle Project (EBLTP) for guidance. The committee returned to the topic at this meeting.

After discussion, the committee agreed to replicate the sea turtle protection rules currently posted at the state park. The committee proposed piloting four signs at Beach Accesses 1, 8, 20 and 35. Mr. Johnson made a motion to proceed with the installation of the turtle signage at the four identified beach access points. Ms. White seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Following the committee's approval, the proposal will now be forwarded to Town Council for consideration.

Vice Chair Graves suggested creating turtle-shaped magnets, similar to the signs, to distribute to local realty companies.

#### Review of Tree Ordinance

In response to a request from Town Council at its annual Goal-Setting Retreat, the committee is reviewing the Town's current tree ordinance. The committee was provided with the current ordinance and the proposed changes previously developed by the Planning Commission. Vice Chair Graves also provided a comparison of tree protection ordinances across eight South Carolina coastal communities.

Mr. Patrick Brown, Building Code Administrator, in a letter to Chair Cantrell, recommended the committee focus its efforts on two key areas: discouraging the clearing of lots for new construction, and establishing appropriate replacement tree requirements. Morgan Viars, Code Enforcement Officer, answered questions and provided guidance to the committee.

Chair Cantrell asked committee members to review the documents and prepare notes for discussion. He also requested the Building Department's presence at the next meeting.

The TIDE Committee serves in an advisory capacity. The Building Department will forward the committee's recommendations to the Planning Commission for consideration.

#### Shred Day 2026

The second annual Town of Edisto Beach Shred Day is scheduled for April 25, 2026. Committee members volunteered to help distribute signs to local businesses to promote the event. The Edisto Beach Volunteer Fire Department will assist with the day's activities.

#### New Business/Open Discussion

The committee discussed a speed radar feedback sign that displays the speed limit and provides drivers with feedback on their current speed. The Town Administrator or the Building Department may contact South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) regarding this idea.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. White 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*

Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk

May 6, 2026