

MINUTES
BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
June 23, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Present: David Cannon, Chairman, Matthew Kizer, and Pat Sheehan, Committee Members; Iris Hill, ex-officio. Absent: Bill Davies and Bruce Shaw, Committee Members.

Approval of Minutes: Matthew Kizer moved to approve the minutes of April 12, 2017, seconded by Pat Sheehan and approved unanimously.

Dogs on Beach: Matthew Kizer suggested that Administrator Hill research other coastal communities to find out how they address the issue of dogs on the beach. The Committee decided against an online survey.

Fishing: The issue of fishing from the shore was addressed previously, in 2014. It was decided at that time to let the issue resolve itself. Administrator Hill will be researching to see how other coastal areas are handling the issue.

Drones: There have been reports at Edisto of drones hovering over sunbathers. The issue of drones is regulated by the FAA. Administrator Hill said that she had checked other communities and was unable to find an ordinance concerning drones.

Dune Management: Administrator Hill told the Committee that after the nourishment, sand fencing and plants have been put in on the beachfront. Sand accumulates at the sand fencing. When the beach erodes, sand fencing becomes uncovered. This sand fencing is made from non-pressure treated wood and small-gage wire so that the fencing will disintegrate once it is buried. Administrator Hill said that the problem going forward is how to establish vegetation on the dune.

The Town put the sand fencing on top of the dune up to the 400 block of Palmetto and at the base of the dune after the 400 block. The plants, which are relatively small (2" plugs) will go around the sand fencing. Administrator Hill suggested the Beachfront Management Committee develop a plan on how to protect and manage the dune.

There is a 50-foot Town owned right-of-way at each beach access. The Town is considering putting up a rope from the end of each beach access to the sand fencing to keep people from cutting across the dunes. That will direct people to go towards the ocean instead of parallel to the ocean, thus keeping them from walking across the dune and across private property. Administrator Hill said that there should be a plan for the future of how the dunes can be protected. This could be a series of additional posts connected as the State Park has done on the front base of the dune. Once the vegetation grows, the posts can come down. The goal is to protect the dune and get vegetation to grow on it. Matthew Kizer told Administrator Hill that the Town did a good job with the sand fencing, and that alone keeps people from walking on the dune. Mr. Kizer did not see the need for extra posts and fencing. Administrator Hill has been in contact with Coastal Transplant, Inc., about providing plants in the fall. The fall is the best time to plant, and Coastal Transplants, Inc. can provide more substantial plants, which would be planted not only at the sand fencing, but on the top and back of the dunes. This project would need to be coordinated with homeowners. Mr. Kizer suggested using large plants on the dunes. Administrator Hill offered to find out what other coastal communities are doing concerning dune management, and talk to those who are putting up sand fencing to find out what they are doing to keep people off the dunes until plants are established. Mr. Kizer stated, "I am totally against more poles and ropes. If we do get another storm, it's

going to be scattered everywhere.” Administrator Hill said that she could get prices on putting larger sea oats for an “entire section” instead of trying to do a large portion of the beach. Mr. Cannon asked if there was funding for this proposed project. Administrator Hill said that was dependent on cost. The sand fencing and planting contract was \$105,555. Administrator Hill said she thought there were 7716 plants included for that price. A discussion about signage ensued. Administrator Hill showed the Committee sample signs that could be put up on or near sand fencing to help keep people off the dunes. Mr. Cannon stated the “protected area” approach seemed to be the best way to go. Administrator Hill said she would come up with some suggestions for signs.

Mr. Cannon asked why there was not a “Keep off the groin” sign at each groin. Administrator Hill said that there was supposed to be one, and if Mr. Cannon would let her know where one was missing, she would let Public Works Director Bob Doub know so that it could be replaced. Mr. Cannon stated, “There has never been one at 26.”

Mr. Kizer asked, “Are all of the extensions supposed to be grouted, or were some of them not grouted?” Mr. Cannon replied, “They’re all supposed to be grouted.” Mr. Kizer stated, “They’re not. You go down to 7 or 8, 6, there’s not grout on the rocks.” Mr. Cannon said that he had questioned Steven Traynum of Coastal Science and Engineering about the grout at the last meeting. Administrator Hill called Mr. Traynum and said, “Where we did the sheet piling, and you have the sheet piling and you have the grout on top. Beside it on each side of the sheet piling we put mattresses and we put rock. Did they grout that rock that’s on top of the mattresses that’s next to the sheet piling?” Mr. Traynum replied, “No.” Mr. Kizer asked, “Were they not supposed to?” Mr. Traynum said, “No, they were not supposed to grout that rock. The sheet piling serves as the impermeable part of the structure. The ones without the sheet piling, they added the grout to make them impermeable.” Administrator Hill, “The rock was just put there to protect the sheet piling.” Mr. Traynum, “To protect the sheet piling from scouring.” Mr. Cannon said, “I think they all need to be grouted. I brought this up in the last meeting.” Deborah Hargis looked at her minutes from the previous meeting and said, “Chairman Cannon asked about more groins getting grout. Mr. Traynum said a change order had been placed for more grout.” Administrator Hill asked Ms. Hargis to check the recording of the last meeting to find out what exactly was said. Administrator Hill explained, “They grouted the ones without the sheet piles. The sheet pile is what keeps the sand from migrating.”

David Cannon made the following motion: “In order to promote dune stabilization and buildup in the areas that the sand fencing has been moved from the top of the dune to its seaward edge, the Beachfront Management Committee recommends to Town Council that additional vegetation be planted on top of the dune in a double row layout and that signage be placed periodically to caution against walking on the planted areas. The number of dune-top plants to be equal to the number and type in the bid specifications to be planted around the sand fencing. The planting to be located toward the seaward edge of the dune-top.” Pat Sheehan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Pat Sheehan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matthew Kizer and approved unanimously.

The media and public were duly notified of the date, place and time of the meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2017.

APPROVED BY THE BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk