

Town of North Topsail Beach

Joann M. McDermon, Mayor
Mike Benson, Mayor Pro Tem

Aldermen:
Richard Grant
Don Harte
Connie Pletl
Robert Swantek



Alice Derian, ICMA-CM
Town Manager

Danyale Lundy
Town Clerk

Nature's Tranquil Beauty

Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2022, at 10:30am
2008 Loggerhead Court, North Topsail Beach. NC 28460

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Benson; Aldermen Grant, Town Manager Derian, Deborah Coltrane (Phase One), Thomas Garrison (Phase Two), Michael Pawelko (Phase Three), John Gardner (Phase Four), Larry Strother (Phase Five), and Coastal Engineer Gibson.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mike Benson, Chair

Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 10:43 am and introduced the committee and the new member representing phase two, Mr. Thomas Garrison.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Benson asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. A discussion was held. Mr. Benson requested to add an organizational item, the proposed BISAC Meeting Schedule for the remainder of the year. Larry Strother made a motion to approve the proposed agenda and the BISAC Meeting Schedule. Michael Pawelko seconded. The motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

3. Approval of February minutes

Larry Strother made a motion to approve the February BISAC Meeting minutes. Deborah Coltrane seconded. The motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

4. Public Comments

No one provided public comment.

5. Current Status of Shoreline Protection Projects – Manager Derian

a. FEMA Cat G & Cat B

Town Manager Derian, ex officio, reported that the Phase Five Truck Haul Project started on February 18th and is currently underway placing sand on the beach. Work is being completed Monday- Friday until the environmental window period ends on April 30th and will then resume in November. Mrs. Derian announced this project will place approximately 289,000 cubic yards of sand onto the beach covering 12,175 feet of shoreline.

Town Manager Derian announced that the Cat B dune restoration from Hurricane Florence

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was paused in winter due to running out of sand that was eligible for FEMA reimbursement. A technical correction was submitted with the state for 1.5-million-dollar funding which has passed through the Senate, been signed off by the Governor, and awaiting execution of the contract documents. Mrs. Derian stated the goal is to get the project resumed and completed before the end of the environmental window on April 30th.

b. New River Inlet Management Master Plan

6. BISAC Vision and Mission Statement – Deborah Coltrane

A discussion was held and the following Vision and Mission statements were adopted:

Vision: The Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee's vision is to advise and provide direction and recommendations on shoreline protection and environmental matters to the North Topsail Beach, Board of Alderman according to the BISAC Charter.

Mission Statement: The Mission of the Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee is to serve as a long-term advisory committee to the North Topsail Beach, Board of Alderman by identifying management and financial opportunities for shoreline protection according to the BISAC Charter.

7. Financing Shoreline Protection – Fund 30 -Rick Grant

a. Town 2022 budget cycle

Alderman Grant explained the Beach Fund, Fund 30, to help the committee understand the budget, revenues, and expenses to be sure that the revenue stream will support future shoreline projects.

Alderman Grant explained why the BOA had to decide to decline participation in the long-awaited US Army Corps, Coastal Storm Risk Management Project with Surf City, since the funding requirements for the Town were magnitudes beyond our revenue resources.

Alderman Grant went on to explain that the only revenue source that can be managed is the property tax stream that currently contributes about 1.3 million dollars annually to Fund 30. A period of questions and discussion ensued as the committee worked to

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understand the Town's shoreline protection needs over the next 5 years. After careful consideration, the committee decided that the current revenue stream for Fund 30 is adequate for the next 5 years.

Recommendation to BOA. There is no need to increase the revenue stream from personal property taxes for Fund 30 in the coming budget cycle.

Mr. Benson encouraged the committee members to start thinking about the next five years and what the next project for North Topsail Beach should be.

8. Micro-encapsulated Styrofoam floats – Mike Benson

A proposal from the NC Coastal Federation to the Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission was made that would ban the use of unencapsulated Styrofoam in structures such as floating docks and walkways or other water-borne structures. Unencapsulated Styrofoam breaks down in the environment into small 'microplastic-sized pieces' that are toxic to fish, other aquatic animal life, as well as birds in the saltwater marsh when they are ingested. The commission in turn asked the three towns to consider an ordinance to ban unencapsulated Styrofoam. The Town of Topsail Beach has already agreed to develop an ordinance, while Surf City is still considering the proposal from NCCF.

Considerable discussion among BISAC committee members followed on the need for a town ordinance.

Negatives:

- Are there that many structures with Styrofoam floats in NTB to warrant an ordinance?
- If this is a state coast-wide issue why doesn't the CRC, make a state-wide ruling?
- As far as the effect on construction costs to use an encapsulated Expanded PolyStyrene (EPS) product that doesn't break down into micro-plastics there appears to be an increase in cost for the encapsulated product (pers. comm. Steve Smith, TISPC chair, on March 24, and Kerri Allen, NCCF on Mar. 25).

Positives:

- With the Town's commitment to making decisions that have the least impact on the environment isn't it the right thing to do to acknowledge our effort to protect the environment with an ordinance?
- Oftentimes granting agencies look to the efforts towns have made in protecting the environment when considering funding for town projects, so wouldn't this public acknowledgment to protect the environment have future benefits?

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Eventually, the committee decided that the positives outweighed the negatives. Possible parameters for the ordinance were discussed with an agreement to consider the general conditions for an ordinance at the April meeting.

Recommendation to BOA. Expect a draft of an ordinance to ban the use of unencapsulated Styrofoam in future construction projects involving floating structures for the May BOA meeting.

9. Public Comments

No one provided public comment.

10. Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 10:30 am

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.