

**MINUTES**  
**BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**JUNE 23, 2021**  
**10:00 A.M.**

Present: Chairman Dallas Lovelace, Dave Blauch, Matthew Kizer, Pat Deloach, Paul Oakley, Bill Davies and Bob Ringer, Committee Members.

Town Administrator Iris Hill and Building Code Official Patrick Brown were also present.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Lovelace called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Lovelace asked the committee if anyone had questions or concerns regarding the minutes from April 16, 2021. Bill Davies mentioned that in the previous minutes, Matthew Kizer discussed washout issues starting at beach access 28 and the minutes reflected that Mr. Kizer discussed wash out issues starting at access 26. Matthew Kizer mentioned that in the same paragraph, the minutes read that Mr. Kizer suggested that the groins and elevation needed to be elevated and continued down the beach, when in fact it should have read "elevated on the landward end of the groin". Paul Oakley mentioned that in the previous minutes he was mentioned as being unexcused from the meeting. Mr. Oakley presented an email to Ms. Davis sent prior to the meeting. After discussion Bill Davies moved to approve the minutes with the above changes, seconded by David Blauch and was unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

Bob Ringer asked about the discussion of ATAX funds in the previous meeting on April 16, 2021 regarding beach renourishment in 2027. Administrator Hill discussed funding from ATAX and mentioned that the Town was still waiting on approval from Tourism Expenditure Review Committee to extend the two-year time frame on funds placed into a dedicated beach preservation account for beach renourishment anticipated for 2027. Ms. Hill also state that she had sent a request to Colleton County to consider funding beach renourishment for the Town. Ms. Hill explained that Colleton County has helped the Town of Edisto Beach and had recently funded part of the sewer collection system upgrade. Administrator Hill informed the committee that she would send them a copy of the correspondence between Mayor Darby and Colleton County regarding funding, as well as the ATAX hospitality and local budget fund.

**Dorian Dune Project – Final Project Expenses** – Administrator Hill provided the recap of the expenses sent to FEMA, which was in the agenda packets. Ms. Hill mentioned that the Town was waiting for approval from FEMA. Administrator Hill informed the committee that FEMA should return 75% of expenses to the Town.

**Erosion 3100 Block** – Administrator Hill asked the committee to look at the pictures that were submitted by Chairman Lovelace regarding erosion at the 3100 block. Ms. Hill sent photos of the area to Coastal Science and Engineering. Chairperson Lovelace voiced concerns of trespassing and liability issues because of erosion. Mr. Lovelace mentioned recent altercations between homeowners and visitors and visitors climbing on rocks and falling off. Administrator Hill suggested that homeowners place signage or fencing around property to alert visitors of private property. Matthew Kizer suggested that a lot of the erosion was due to seasonal loss because of southwest winds during storms and discussed the difference in elevation between beach access 31 and 32. The committee and Town Administrator discussed possible solutions to build up beach accesses to prevent erosion and elevate the groins. Matthew Kizer suggested that the Town ask Coastal Science and Engineering to look at the elevation of beach accesses 31 and 32 and come up with a solution. Bob Ringer moved to request that Steven Traynum from Coastal Science and Engineering come to Edisto Beach to observe and research the elevation levels at beach accesses 31 and 32 and provide recommendations to the Town regarding the issues, seconded by Bill Davies and unanimously approved. Matthew Kizer suggested spot nourishment to fill in the beach for a temporary fix for the summer season.

**Beachfront Nourishment 2027 Funding** – Administrator Hill discussed future funding possibilities from the Federal government and from SCPRT. Bill Davies mentioned receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Hill informed Mr. Davies that the funds have been designated for the Town. She also mentioned that the funding from the American Rescue Plan could only be used for certain projects and that Beachfront Nourishment was not one of the options. Mr. Davies stated he may be describing a different program and asked Administrator Hill to investigate all funding sources. Administrator Hill and the committee discussed how Census counts impact funding opportunities.

### **New Business**

**US Army Corps of Engineers** – Administrator Hill informed the committee that the Town had asked the USACE for a one-year extension before committing to the project. She informed everyone that USACE did not approve the extension and requested an answer by July 16, 2021. Ms. Hill proposed two potential funding options, which includes issuing a referendum or requesting the Town Council commit to the funding. Chairman Lovelace suggested the elected officials make the final decision and not the public when it came to funding the beach renourishment. Administrator Hill discussed impacts of a referendum verses Town Council voting on the funding. Matthew Kizer voiced concerns about the USACE project and access and reconfirmed he felt that the State and County should fund beach nourishment. Bill

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Davies mentioned that he thought preserving the beachfront was the most important part of preserving the community and that funding from the US Army Corps of Engineers for this project was the best way to go. Paul Oakley and Dallas Lovelace agreed with this decision. Paul Oakley moved to request that Town Council sign the agreement with US Army Corps of Engineers to advance the beach renourishment project without a referendum, seconded by Bill Davies. Bob Ringer mentioned that the beachfront may need to be nourished before 2027 and Ms. Hill mentioned the upcoming hurricane season possibly being an issue. Paul Oakley stated that the US Army Corps of Engineers was a long term engineered solution for the Town. David Blauch stated that most of the beachfront homeowners are worried about visitors trespassing across private property because of the erosion. After discussion, Chairman Lovelace asked that a separate document be drafted to explain the right of way issues to the public. After discussion, the motioned that was seconded was approved by a 6-1 vote. Matthew Kizer was opposed.

### **Dune Planting**

Administrator Hill asked the committee to review the handout that was provided in the agenda packet regarding the planting and funding of sea oats. David Blauch stated he wanted to offer residents the option to purchase sea oats. David Blauch moved to request that the Town purchase additional sea oats that will be sold to the residents, if available, seconded by Bob Ringer and was unanimously approved. Matthew Kizer suggested that planting and protecting the dunes would only offer protection if the groins were elevated. Mr. Kizer suggested getting a permit to elevate the groins now even though the project may be delayed. After discussion, Administrator Hill informed the committee that she would reach out to Coastal Science and Engineers to see what would be required to elevate the groins. Mr. Kizer, Patrick Brown, and Ms. Hill discussed with the committee, using old elevation permits. Chairman Lovelace mentioned to the committee that the members needed to be present at the Town Council meeting to support the issues on July 8, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. Chairman Lovelace also mentioned coming to the work session that will be held on July 6, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. Ms. Pat DeLoach asked if the committee or Ms. Hill had thought the jetties in the Charleston harbor had any effect on the beach erosion. Ms. Hill mentioned studies that have been done regarding the Charleston harbor and sand movement, but that Edisto Beach had not been affected. Ms. DeLoach asked about dredging sand from a sand bar. Ms. Hill explained that this was an option, but it would be an expensive project for the Town.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Lovelace moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paul Oakley, and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVED BY THE BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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Angela K. Davis, Municipal Clerk