

BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

October 5, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Edisto Beach Town Hall

Minutes

Present: Dallas Lovelace, Chair; and Committee Members Marie Bost, Bob Ringer, Paul Oakley, Pat DeLoach, and David Blauch

Absent: Stanley Hergott

Staff Present: Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Assistant Town Administrator Dee Stalvey, and Municipal Clerk Donna Iskra

Others Present: Mayor Crawford Moore and Council Members Jerome Kizer, Bob Renner, Joey Bagwell and Jay Watts. USACE Project Manager Chrissa Waite, and USACE staff members, Dylan Burnell, Emily Mewborne and John Hinely (via phone).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dallas Lovelace, Chair, at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Bost made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2023. Mr. Ringer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Update from Town Administrator:

- Approval by OCRM is pending for Westbank to begin the sandscraping project.
- Meeting notices have been mailed to all beachfront property owners inviting them to attend the informational meeting on October 30, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
- Approval has been given to hire an appraiser for the USACE project and we will be moving forward with a signed contract.

New Business:

A. Presentation from USACE

- Ms. Waite reviewed the agenda for the upcoming meeting for beachfront property owners.
- Staff will arrive and set up at 4:30 p.m. Mayor Moore and Council members will discuss the meeting's purpose and make Team introductions.
- Purpose of the easements and project timeline will be reviewed.
- A map of the full project and photos showing easement and construction lines clearly marked with street names for easy identification will be available for viewing.
- There will be a presentation and overview followed by a Q & A period. Participants will be able to review the materials and ask questions. The meeting is expected to conclude at 7:00 p.m.


Open Discussion:

- Mr. Aakhus presented photos that represented the range of current conditions at different beach accesses.
- Ms. Bost asked if we could give individual property owners the specific amount of renourishment that will occur on their property, but Ms. Waite cautioned about giving specifics given that the beach is ever changing.
- Mr. Blauch clarified that the purpose of the easement is to allow space for the equipment to work and allows for future renourishment. Ms. Waite said while that is true it also allows USACE to return periodically and after a significant storm to inspect the damage and provide renourishment if necessary.
- Mr. Renner asked what triggers renourishment. Ms. Waite explained the Town in partnership with USACE will conduct periodic inspections to monitor the conditions of the dunes and berms and any time after a storm.
- Mr. Lovelace wants to ensure it is made clear the purpose of the meeting is for the property owners to understand what the project entails, and there will be no adjustments or changes made to it at any time. Engineers and USACE personnel will be available to answer questions.
- Mr. Kizer asked if the Town would be responsible for damage or removal of existing fencing or vegetation, and Ms. Waite responded that replacement fencing and vegetation will be brought in.
- Mr. Oakley and Mr. Kizer asked for an approximate timeline and phases of the project. Ms. Waite explained there are 3 phases, the Design phase which we are in now, the Contracting phase and then the Construction phase. The total estimated time for completion is between November 2025 -- March 2026.
- Mr. Renner confirmed that the current local regulations will not change regarding beach access. This easement is for construction access and does not turn private property into public property. Mr. Aakhus commented that the Town will not own the property just the right to construct on it to protect existing and future structures.
- Mayor Moore commended Ms. Waite and the USACE Team for their outstanding work on this project and appreciates the time and effort made to protect all the beachfront property owner's property.
- Mr. Aakhus encouraged everyone in attendance to call or email him with any questions.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Lovelace made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Blauch seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously,

APPROVED BY THE BEACHFRONT MANGEMENT COMMITTEE



Donna Iskra, Municipal Clerk
December 14, 2023