

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, April 26, 2018, 2:00 PM

Topsail Beach

Commission Members:

Steve Smith
Mike Benson
David Ward
Dick Peters
Mark Price
Teresa Batts
Hiram Williams
Jerry Patton
Jerry Heid
Ed Broadhurst

Public Present:

Steve Foster, Interim Town Manager, NTB
Michael Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Linda Stipe, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Jade Litcher, BIS Member, Topsail Beach
John Goller, Topsail Beach Resident
Charles & Jeannine Meyers
Christina Burke, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order & Greetings

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Public Comments

No comments were made.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Peters made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Broadhurst seconded the motion and it was carried.

4. Approval of the March 22, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Heid made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ward seconded the motion and it was carried.

5. Consultant/Lobbyist/Partners – Information & Contact Review/Update

Mr. Smith stated that the reports from Mike McIntyre and Connie Wilson had been emailed out earlier. Mr. Benson spoke about the proposal for the State to purchase a dredge using money from the Shallow Draft Inlet (SDI) Fund. MR. Smith added that there was discussion at the NCBIWA meeting about it. It costs the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) approximately \$180 million to dredge the inlet, but the cost to purchase a dredge is approximately \$60 million. The Members talked at length about the demand on the SDI Fund. Mr. Benson said the fund has approximately \$46 million, of which \$20 million has already been committed to future projects. Mr. Smith spoke about the possibility of the State reallocating transfer tax and accommodations tax, which may have an effect on the SDI and State Beach Nourishment Fund. The Commission had a lengthy discussion about remarks Senator Cook made at the NCBIWA meeting regarding allocation of accommodations tax.

6. United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE) Update– Pam Castens

Mr. Smith said that all three Towns received a letter from the USACE asking if they were prepared to sign a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) if funds became available. North Topsail Beach and Surf

City both confirmed they were prepared to do so, but Topsail Beach has decided it would not be in their best interest. Mr. Smith stated that Mrs. Castens gave the Town 45 minutes to make a decision. He added that there were issues that couldn't be decided and ultimately the Town had to say no to signing a PPA.

7. NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRAC & CRC) Update – Mike Moore

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he attended the CRC Public Hearing regarding the proposed dune regulations. He stated that he spoke in support of the proposed regulations with some modifications and he expects the regulations will be approved at the next meeting. Mr. Smith also talked about an Inlet Atlas that has been created showing the migration of the Inlets in NC since 1984. He asked Mr. Benson to put a link to the atlas on the TISPC website and encouraged every one to look at it.

8. North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association (NCBIWA) Review – Kathleen Riely

Mr. Rose said he attended the NCBIWA meeting in Pine Knoll Shores and found the topics of discussion informative and beneficial. Mr. Smith said there was a session on offshore wind/power generation. He said it appears that the State Governor and Attorney General have both taken the position to support it and are even allocating funding for ports to be able to accommodate larger ships. Mr. Smith urged the Commission to stay abreast of the issue.

9. Old Business

a. Washington, DC Meetings – March 20 & 21

Mr. Smith stated that he, Chris Gibson, Dan Tuman and Tom Leonard all went to Washington D.C and attended several meetings. He said they were all good meetings and they even received suggestions and tips to receive State and Federal funding. One of the suggestions was for the TISPC to request, in writing, that Senators Burr and Tillis meet with Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. Mr. Smith said the Resolution the TISPC approved at the March meeting has been sent to both Senators but there has been no response yet. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. McIntyre plans on following up on the request for a meeting and will report back with an update.

Mr. Broadhurst said he believes the Surf City/North Topsail Beach project will be funded in the FY2018 budget. Mr. Smith said the Budget includes one new start and agrees that it could likely be the Surf City/North Topsail Beach Federal Project. Mr. Smith spoke about why Topsail Beach would not agree to sign a PPA. He said Topsail Beach has been comparing the scope and cost of its Local project with the Federal Project. There came a point in which the sand source drastically impacted the cost of the Federal Project and the nourishment Topsail Beach has done over the years, outgrew the Federal Project template. Mr. Foster commented that it seems there are always new requirements to remain in the Federal Project that it almost seems unattainable and not worth staying in. Mr. Patton stated that Topsail Beach has been clear

about what the issues are with the Federal Project and tried to meet with USACE representatives endlessly to come to a solution. But after doing a side by side comparison, with cost only being one of the factors, it was determined that the Federal Project was no longer beneficial to Topsail Beach. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. McIntyre drafted a letter to send to the USACE stating that although Topsail Beach has withdrawn from the Federal Project, it fully supports the Surf City/North Topsail Beach project.

Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the letter to be sent. Seconded by Mr. Peters, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Actions we need to take for State Beach Funding

Mr. Smith said there is not really any new information on State Beach Funding. He said the Commission needs to continue to work with Connie Wilson on this issue.

10. Towns' Local Project

a. North Topsail Beach – Steve Foster

Mr. Foster stated that North Topsail Beach has been removing the rocks on the beach required to come into compliance with the USACE after their nourishment project. He said it cost the Town \$30,000 to remove rocks from a 3-mile section, but the Town completed the task within the timeframe given. Mr. Foster stated that Chris Gibson will give his report to the Board of Aldermen on the upcoming FEMA Restoration Project. He said the projected cost of the project is 7.2 million and is planned to begin in November.

Mr. Foster said they are still working on the Hardened Structure Project and the Engineer will be presenting the plan to the Scoping Committee.

Mr. Broadhurst said he understands that the USACE is dredging the New River Inlet at no cost to the Town of North Topsail Beach. He asked if the Town has to pay for the sand to be placed on the beach, as opposed to side casted. Mr. Foster said the Town has to pay to move it once it's been placed on the beach strand. Mr. Benson added that for normal maintenance on an inlet, the USACE only uses a side cast dredge, but they will use a pipeline dredge for the New River Inlet, because of it crossing with the Atlantic Waterway.

The Members discussed the recent news about Holden Beach reverting its decision to construct a Terminal Groin. Mr. Smith said it was a unanimous vote not to move forward with it due to the cost and impact to the Town. Mr. Rose stated that he heard Ocean Isle Beach was currently involved in a lawsuit over their Terminal Groin.

b. Surf City – Larry Bergman

Mr. Bergman was not in attendance to give an update. Mr. Ward stated that he spoke to Mr. Bergman

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prior to the meeting and Mr. Bergman has talked with Mr. Gibson about a potential local nourishment project. He said that Mr. Gibson has already started doing some core sampling and its going good so far.

c. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose said the Town of Topsail Beach is continuing to move forward with the permit process for the Local Storm Damage Reduction (SDR) project. He added that the comment period for the Federal agencies will end on April 30th, but so far, all comments have been minor. Mr. Rose said we expect the permit to be issued in June or July and then the Town will go out for bids.

Mr. Rose stated that the Town has been investigating alternative crossover options verses hardened wooden structures. He said the Town has purchased beach mats to use at test sites over the summer. He hopes to have an update at the next meeting about how they are working.

11. New Business

No new business was discussed.

12. Open Forum

Mr. Peters informed the Commission Members that he spoke to Rick Catlin, the NCBIWA Chairman, about Senator Cooks presentation and he stated that the NCBIWA will discuss Senator Cooks comments at the next NCBIWA meeting. He suggested the Commission follow up with Kathleen Riley.

Mr. Smith talked about Sea Level Rise. He stated that Spencer Rogers, with NC Sea Grant, is in the process of gathering data on flooding issues effecting the coast. Mr. Smith said we know Sea Level is happening and we need to start looking at ways to combat it. He suggested things like removing the old asphalt before resurfacing the roads, raise the building level and put ordinances in place that control where you can put fill dirt. Mr. Smith stressed the importance of staying aware of this topic.

13. Next Meeting – North Topsail Beach Town Hall, 2 PM, May 24, 2018

14. Adjournment - Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.