



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 31, 2019, 2:00 PM

Surf City Welcome Center

102 N. Shore Drive, Surf City, NC 28445

Commission Members Present:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Mike Benson, Vice-Chair
Larry Combs
Teresa Batts
Hiram Williams
Chad McEwen
Ed Broadhurst
Richard Peters
Susan Meyer

Public Present:

Mike Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Daniel Tuman, Mayor, North Topsail Beach
Tom Leonard, Alderman, North Topsail Beach
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk

1) Call to Order & Greetings

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. He welcomed Susan Meyer, the at-large representative from North Topsail Beach, and Chad McEwen, the new Pender County Manager, to the commission.

2) Public Comments

No public comments were made.

3) Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Batts made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was carried.

4) Approval of Minutes for August 22, 2019

Vice Chairman Benson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Combs seconded the motion, and it was carried.

5) Consultant & Partners Reviews

a) Poyner Spruill Attorneys – See Report

Chairman Smith noted the progress on gaining Congressman Murphy's support for H.R. 2834.

b) Connie Wilson Consulting –

Chairman Smith noted the passage of H.B. 1023 for resiliency and recovery efforts, which is waiting to go through the senate. He commented on the bill's complexity, suggesting a trip to Raleigh to get a clear definition of "resiliency" and to ensure Topsail Island gets recognition in the bill. He also said the North Carolina Coastal Federation will likely receive money to clean up marsh areas.

c) Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center



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d) North Carolina Coastal Federation

Chairman Smith commented that the North Carolina Coastal Federation has been active in soundside erosion issues and has been pushing several programs such as cleaning the marsh. He encouraged the towns to reach out and work with them on those projects.

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

Chairman Smith reported no news for the Topsail Beach and Surf City federal project, but there may be an update next month. Mr. Rose reported that the Topsail Beach living shoreline project won't qualify for an upcoming federal grant because they've received FEMA money, but they will still try to pursue the grant. Chairman Smith suggested sitting down with the committee assigned to define rules for this grant to clarify its qualifications. Mr. Rose also commented that S.B. 95 has morphed to only include beach-related projects. Topsail Beach originally wanted to use that money for stormwater issues and a living shoreline, so they would like to find out if they could still use the grant for that purpose. Mr. Broadhurst and Mr. Combs agreed.

f) North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association (NCBIWA)

i) NCBIWA Conference – Nov. 12-13, Holiday Inn, Wrightsville Beach

Chairman Smith encouraged everyone to attend this conference.

6) NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRAC & CRC)

a) Next Meeting: Nov. 19 & 20 – Islander Hotel, Emerald Isle

Chairman Smith said he expects the CRC to give more information on the Inlet Hazard Area public hearings starting in December for all 20 coastal counties. The CRC will probably modify some regulations for the IHAs. Chairman Smith also reported that all seemed to be in favor of the Surf City/North Topsail Beach unvegetated dune amendments at the recent CRC public hearings. He asked at those meetings for the CRC to make the information on the erosion rates easier to understand. He said he expected that at this November 19th meeting a motion will be made to send those amendments to Raleigh.

7) Old Business

a) ASBPA Conference – Myrtle Beach, Oct. 22 to 25

Chairman Smith reported the conference contained 3.5 days of education on beach management, effective communication, and technical instruction. Abstracts of the discussions are available online. He noted there was a lot of discussion on climate change.



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- 8) Town's Local Projects/Direction – Please include status of projects for Senate Bill 95 and specific dates for planned beach maintenance projects
- a) North Topsail Beach – Bryan Chadwick

Alderman Leonard read Alderman Heid's notes from the MOA meeting in New Bern. North Topsail Beach has submitted for S.B. 95 and is waiting for approval. Dredging in New River Inlet needs to be deeper and wider, so the permit needs to be modified to do so. The Army Corps of Engineers has not established a schedule for dredging yet. They still need to verify easements for that project. Mayor Tuman added that for S.B. 95, the town is going to add on to the truck haul for the Hurricane Mathew Project. The town also recently had a special meeting on beach projects, which covered the terminal groin project proceedings and starting a proposal to restore Phase 2-4 beaches.
 - b) Surf City – Ashley Loftis

Councilwoman Batts reported that the town is working on a sand haul for an emergency berm around November 16th and will follow Topsail Beach's FEMA project with their own private project. The town also hired a new planner, who will start next week.
 - c) Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose reported that their local project is moving forward with bids completed. They hope to start late November with dredging starting in December. The project will use two dredges in the inlet area that will work at both ends simultaneously. Mr. Combs added that one dredge is the second largest ocean-certified dredge in the country. The goal is to finish by the end of April. The town working with FEMA on their category G project, which needs congressional approval. Mr. Rose also noted that the Currituck will be the only hopper dredge available for a year, making ACOE projects more difficult. The town has also submitted a request for funding for category A, B, and G for Dorian federal disaster relief. A more formal resolution will be brought to the Board for approval in November. The town also wants to be more active on soundside projects moving forward. On November 30th, the town will hold a parade and tree lighting.
- 9) New Items
- a) Climate Change

Chairman Smith said that, following the ASBPA conference, the commission needs to think more broadly about the impact of climate change. The US Fish and Wildlife Service will be stricter on requirements for future projects, prompting a lot of questions and controversy. Chairman Smith went through the broad implications of climate change and suggested the commission should start looking at ordinances to prevent damage from more intense storms. Some communities are hiring companies to help them do that. The commission also needs to work to define "resiliency" to help people act on it. Mr. Combs said it's worth getting CAMA involved in this issue. Vice Chairman Benson pointed to the state's staff person in charge of coastal resiliency to get background on the topic.
 - b) Resolution to Congressman Murphy to Co-Sponsor H.R. 2834

Mayor Tuman reported that a letter to Congressman Murphy to co-sponsor H.R. 2834 is ready for his signature. Mr. Broadhurst made a motion for the commission to send a letter of support to Congressman Murphy. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was carried.



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10) Legislative Goals for 2020

Chairman Smith asked the commission to review the commission's goals to send to Mr. McIntyre and Ms. Wilson to lobby for. The commission discussed and edited the goals. Chairman Smith directed Vice Chairman Benson and Mr. Combs to finalize the list and send to each town to submit to their Boards for consideration.

11) Next Meeting – 2 PM, Thursday, December 5, 2019, Topsail Beach Town Hall

12) Adjournment

Vice Chairman Benson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was carried.