



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 2:00 PM

Commission Members Present

Mike Benson, Vice Chair
Ed Broadhurst
Larry Combs
Fred Fontana
Tom Leonard
David Ward
Hiram Williams
Teresa Batts
Virtual
Steve Smith, Chair
Mark Price
Jade Litcher

Associates Present

Kerri Allen, NC Coastal Federation
Christina Burke, Asst. Manager, Topsail Beach
Carla Citarelli, Town Clerk, Surf City
Alice Derian, Town Manager, N. Topsail Beach
Kathy Zagzebski, Karen Beasley Sea Turtle
Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
Virtual
John Gunter, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Rochelle Jagst, Dep. Town Clerk, Topsail Beach
Tammie Parris, Greater Topsail Area Chamber
of Commerce
Kathleen Riely, NCBIWA
Connie Wilson, TISPC Advocate
Tim Zizack, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order & Greetings

Vice Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm. Alderman Leonard introduced Fred Fontana as the new North Topsail Beach at-large TISPC member. He also introduced Alice Derian as the new NTB town manager.

II. Public Comments

None made.

III. Approval of Agenda

Alderman Leonard made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, and it was carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes for September 23, 2021

Alderman Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes with a change to correct a typo in item 5a. Vice Chairman Benson seconded the motion, and it was carried.

V. Consultant & Partners Reviews

A. *Ward and Smith Attorneys* – See report

B. *Connie Wilson Consulting* – See report

Ms. Wilson reported that negotiations are occurring on the budget with an upcoming vote on both the budget and redistricting. Overall, the conversations are positive for the State of North Carolina with billions of dollars waiting to be appropriated. The items of interest to the TISPC are not in controversy. The House and Senate released their redistricting maps for the General Assembly and Congress, which may impact the representation for TISPC jurisdictions. The \$40 million for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund is in the conference report for the budget and will likely be included. The \$51 million in directed grants for towns for disaster relief, recovery, and resiliency projects will likely be reduced, but it is unclear by how much. Ms. Wilson is trying to include Topsail Beach in this list, but it met resistance on the House side. There are still three years of funding in the conference report for the Surf City/NTB federal project. There is a grant program for structures up to \$6,000 for residents. There is \$25 million for flood reduction projects and \$20 million for disaster relief and mitigation for state agencies. There is \$100 million for stormwater infrastructure for local governments. It is a historic year for funding for the coast. Mr. Broadhurst asked why Topsail Beach was left out of the \$51 million, which Ms. Wilson replied she was unsure and that is it too late to reinclude it. She emphasized the other grant funding available for coastal governments.

C. *North Carolina Coastal Federation* –

Ms. Allen reported on the marine debris removal project, stating over 2 million pounds have been removed in two years. The proposed floating docs encapsulated polystyrene recommendation may move to regulating polystyrene on the island, including single use items. She said they are also launching a microplastic sampling program, most of which detects the small beads of polystyrene. They are working with researchers around the country, who say

90% of seafood contains microplastics. Ms. Allen said there are several alternatives for these products, and several towns across the country have adopted ordinances to prevent marine plastic pollution. Ms. Allen highlighted that Topsail Island has the potential to be a leader on this issue in North Carolina. Mr. Ward asked how the debris is disposed and if a state-wide regulation would be more effective than a local regulation. Ms. Allen said most goes in the landfill, but what can be recycled is recycled. Ms. Allen agreed a state regulation would be great, but it is not elevated enough for the legislature yet. She said local ordinances have power and build pressure on the state. Chairman Smith asked the three towns to start looking at this information and bring in the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce to design a communications program that would engage businesses and visitors to help the situation. Ms. Allen said she would be happy to provide more information and help create communication materials. Ms. Parris said she could talk with Pender County Tourism to push outreach materials on the issue. Vice Chair Benson said he will ask for volunteers from each town to help address this issue and work with Ms. Allen.

D. [North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association –](#)

Ms. Riely said NCBIWA can help with the marine plastic pollution issue as well. She also reported that there will be a good turnout for the upcoming conference. Vice Chairman Benson encouraged all to attend.

E. [United States Army Corp of Engineering \(USACE\)](#)

Vice Chairman Benson reported that Pam Castens has taken a new position in a new district and thanked her for her work. The commission's new liaison from the Corps will be Robert Keistler.

F. [Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center](#)

Ms. Zagzebski welcomed and thanked the Kiwanis' volunteer effort. She reported that they are continuing their public tours and are going down to two days a week in November while keeping the gift shop open. They have had 38,500 people come tour the facility since March. There are not many patients in the hospital right now. This nesting season is wrapping up with 103 nests total with one left to hatch. They helped 10,000 hatchlings get back to the wild this year. The Surf to Sound 5K went well with over 400 registrants, raising over \$8,000. Ms. Zagzebski also supports any work to reduce marine plastic pollution

in the community. They are collaborating with a student from University of West Florida to study microplastic in unhatched sea turtle eggs. She said microplastics are impacting sea turtles.

VI. Old Business

A. Representative Murphy Coast Meeting Review

Chairman Smith said a PowerPoint on the meeting will be shared.

VII. Town's Local Projects/Direction –

A. North Topsail Beach

Ms. Derian reported that a dune truck haul project will begin on November 16th and will take 35 days to complete. The Phase 5 bid package will be complete soon, which includes a truck haul to start in January. The Topsail Reef area is in the permitting phase for sand placement. On November 3, a meeting on the town hall will occur and a final date for project completion will be announced soon.

B. Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Ms. Citarelli reported that Mr. Breuer attended a water summit in Greensboro and was encouraged to hear a legislator there discuss topics such as beach nourishment. The town has applied to BRIC and has been asked to submit a full application for the South Shore stormwater project. The town is working with Coastal Transplants to incorporate plantings on the berm this winter and spring. The town is also still waiting on the Corps for more information on the federal project.

C. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Ms. Burke reported that the BIS Committee is working on the living shoreline projects. One is in place, and educational signage will be placed soon. The second one will start construction within the week. The third one will be constructed in the spring. The BIS Committee is also working on the beach management plan. On November 27th, the Christmas tree lighting and parade will take place.

VIII. New Items

A. Island-wide effort to reduce plastic waste & glass on beaches

Chairman Smith reiterated that a group including the Chamber of Commerce will come together to talk to businesses about moving away from polystyrene. Ms. Allen said she will come up with a list of groups to target and schedule a meeting to discuss.

B. Need to start discussing goals for 2022

Vice Chairman Benson asked the commission members to think about the goals for 2022 to discuss at the December meeting. Mr. Broadhurst and Mr. Combs volunteered to help spearhead that effort alongside Vice Chairman Benson.

IX. Meetings & Conferences

A. NCBIWA — November 4 & 5, 2021

X. Public/Commission Comments

Ms. Parris extended an invitation to participate in the flotilla and Christmas market on December 11th in Soundside Park. Chairman Smith said there will be issues with flood insurance discounting and ISO ratings in 2022.

XI. Next Meeting – December 2, 2021

XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and it was carried.