



Topsail Island
Shoreline Protection Commission



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 18, 2023, 2:00 PM
Surf City Town Hall

Commission Members Present

Steve Smith, Chair
Mike Benson, Vice Chair
Teresa Batts
Larry Combs
Fred Fontana
Mark Price (virtual)
William Snyder
Larry Strother
David Ward
Hiram Williams

Associates Present

Alice Derian, N. Topsail Beach Manager
Kyle Breuer, Surf City Town Manager
Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach Town Manager
Kerri Allen, NC Coastal Federation
Kathy Zagzebski, Karen Beasley Turtle
Hospital
Virtual
Congressman Mike McIntyre, TISPC Federal
Advocate
Connie Wilson, TISPC State Advocate
Joonsoo Yi, TISPC Federal Advocate
Billy Christ, Office of Rep. Rouzer
Tammy Proctor, Pender County Tourism

Guests

Morton Blanchard, TB Councilman
Dr. Steven Hill, Manager, Pender County
Tom Leonard, NTB Alderman

I. [Call to Order & Greetings](#)

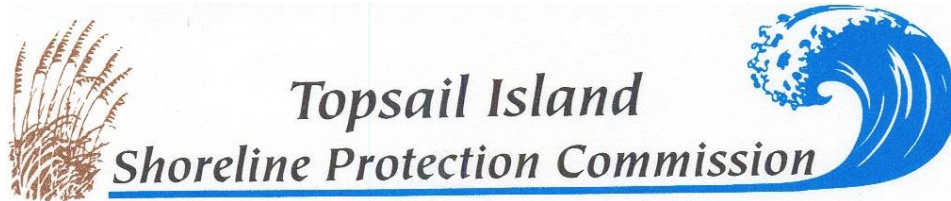
Chairman Smith called the meeting at order at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Smith welcome the commission members, associates, and guests in the audience and online. He noted that Larry Strother has been appointed as the third representative from North Topsail Beach. He is the new chair of their Beach, Inlet, Sound, Advisory Committee.

II. [Public Comments](#)

None were made.

III. [Approval of Agenda](#)

Mayor Batts made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Benson seconded the motion, and it was carried.

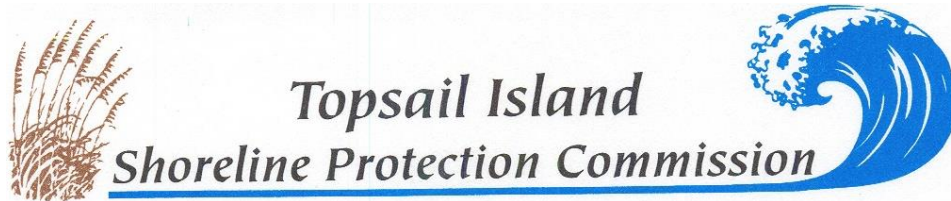


IV. Approval of Minutes for February 23

Approval was tabled until the June meeting.

V. Consultant & Partners Reviews

- a. Federal Legislation Activities - Ward and Smith Attorneys – Mike McIntyre
Mr. McIntyre reported that President Biden put out his fiscal year budget at \$6.9 trillion. Congress has begun its hearings on the budget. The EPA will make \$11.6 billion available for drinking and clean water infrastructure, which includes PFAS and wastewater management. The USACE will make \$7.4 billion available for infrastructure. On March 29, Congress ended the Covid-19 national emergency, with exceptions for water, sewer, and broadband. WOTUS rule is pending on the US Supreme Court ruling. FEMA reforms are also being discussed. Mr. McIntyre also commended the TISPC delegation that visited DC. The CBRA bill has been reintroduced. The Surf City federal project is also moving along.
- b. NC State Legislation Activities - Connie Wilson Consulting – Connie Wilson
Ms. Wilson reported that many bills are being tracked for the TISPC in Raleigh. The House presented their budget, which included funding for resilience and wastewater. However, there was no funding for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund and water development resources. These items may be included in the Senate version. Ms. Wilson is asking for \$20 million this year for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund. They also filed a couple of bills on derelict vessel removal both from a local and statewide perspective. Both bills will meet the crossover deadline. The Topsail Beach license plate is also moving along. Senate Bill 686 covers regulatory reform, in which they have been working on for the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund so that local governments are the only entities eligible for those funds. Ms. Wilson also discussed HB 192, SB 646, SB 697, SB 744, an overall money report for the budget, and bills on affordable housing, modifying beach plans, stormwater, and short-term rentals.
- c. North Carolina Coastal Federation – Kerri Allen
Ms. Allen reported that the federation has received funding for the Pamlico Oyster Sanctuary and marine debris removal. They have also been working on a bill for encapsulated polystyrene. The Oyster Summit is coming up in Raleigh. A marine debris removal crew will be back in Topsail Island in the next few weeks.
- d. North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association – Kathleen Riely
- e. Turtle Hospital – Kathy Zagzebski



Ms. Zagzebski reported on the spring and summer tour schedules. It has been their busiest March and April ever with double the number of turtles admitted. There will also be celebrations in July for the nonprofit's 25th anniversary.

VI. Old Business & Updates

- a. Beach Clean Update –
Chairman Smith said he met with the Realtor's Association and they will distribute information to their renters.
- b. RCCP additional update/discussion
Mr. Breuer reported that all three towns submitted an application.
- c. Review of Washington, D.C. Discussions
Alderman Leonard reported that it was a good trip with a joint CBRA bill filed.
- d. Balloon Ordinance Update – see attached update
Mr. Breuer and Ms. Derian reported that town councils are discussing balloon releases, focusing mainly on education of the issue.
- e. Project – Dr. Moore – Predicting Results of Resilience Projects – Letter of Support Attached
Chairman Smith said he sent a letter of support for the project.
- f. CRC Meeting Review
Mr. Breuer said the CRC meeting in Manteo covered beach mats and septic tank rules. Municipalities can now put down beach mats.

VII. New Items

- a. Support for Increased funding for Coastal Clean Waters – see attached resolution
Chairman Smith reported on this resolution in preventing pollution runoff. He asked the three towns to see what they can do in supporting this resolution.
- b. Septic Rules impact on January 1, 2024 – see attached files
Chairman Smith reported that new septic rules are going into effect, so people need to be aware of the increasing costs of septic.



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VIII. Town's Local Projects/Direction –

- a. North Topsail Beach – (Sand Project, Terminal Groin, etc.) - Alice Derian
Ms. Derian reported on their ordinance on polystyrene and asked Onslow County to consider a similar ordinance. They are also wrapping up their Phase 5 project with an extension into May. Beach Access 4 dune restoration is complete. Permitting has come in for Phase 4 work in the fall. A public hearing for the budget is upcoming in May. Extension renovations to Richard C. Peters Park have been completed. NTB also submitted to the RCCP for the park and the fire station. Stormwater and cyber security grants have also been submitted.
- b. Surf City – (Federal 50 year Program, etc.) - Kyle Breuer
Mr. Breuer reported that the beach management plan through DCM is moving forward. For the federal project, it will likely be a year-round project.
- c. Topsail Beach – (FEMA Arbitration, South-end, etc.) – Doug Shipley
Mr. Shipley reported that USACE started dredging in the area. An arbitration with FEMA also took place and will be resolved in 60 days. Cyber security training within the town has also been put in place. The town did not receive priority for stormwater funding.

IX. Meetings & Conference

- a. Oyster Summit – Raleigh – NCCF – May 9-10, 2023
- b. NCBIWA Legislative Review – May 11-12, 2023 –
- c. CRC - June 15, 2023 - TBD

X. Public/Commission Comments

XI. Next Meeting – Thursday, June 22, 2023 – Surf City Town Hall

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Batts seconded the motion, and it was carried.