

Minutes of the September 17, 2025 Town of Kiawah Island Environmental Committee Meeting

Attendees: Madeleine Kaye, Jim Jordan, Matt Hill, Lynne Sager, Lynda Leffler, Cindy Perry, Jennifer Hayes, Pam Wilson.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from August 13 meeting approved.

Program Updates

- Shorebird Stewardship: No new updates.
- Conservancy Projects: Installation of 50 manufactured wire reefs near the Kiawah River Bridge was reported, with approximately 600 more slated for future installation. Reefs will eventually be installed on both sides of the bridge. This is a long-term project aimed at shoring up the shoreline. A wildflower meadow will be planted at the Betsy Kerrison Natural Area, replacing demolished buildings and maintaining the area's wild character until future infrastructure (like parking) is added.
- Resiliency Committee: Recent activities included the filming of a composting podcast, and upcoming projects involve a field trip to the John's Island recycling center and another podcast focused on the recycling initiative. A new initiative for neighborhood-driven shoreline stewardship (starting at Rhett's Bluff) is under early discussion, emphasizing the importance and potential for collective neighborhood action instead of individual property owners tackling large, costly environmental projects.
- Composting Discussion: Community interest in composting appears moderate, particularly among full-time residents. Some members shared experiences with composting, both positive and negative (issues with flies and maggots were noted as deterrents). There is a recognition that most part-time or visiting residents are unlikely to participate in composting. It was agreed to monitor podcast engagement metrics to gauge further community interest.

Fish & Wildlife Regulation (Article 15, Chapter 5):

- The chapter is significantly outdated (15 years old), particularly the fish species' limits and regulations, which conflict with current state law. The group discussed updating the ordinance to reference state regulations for efficiency and accuracy. Additional considerations included possible new town ordinances (e.g., prohibiting bobcat killing) and reviewing other municipalities' policies. Scheduling a working session to tackle these updates was considered, with general agreement to postpone action until members' schedules clear up (likely after mid-October). Jim Jordan will circulate South Carolina

statutory references and propose four-hour time blocks for a small committee session after returning to town.

- **Bobcat and Bluegrass Event:** The third annual event is scheduled for November 7 at Town Hall, from 2-5pm. Planning is underway for entertainment, food, and giveaways, with a preview of a potential logo and flag presented at the meeting.

Additional Discussion: The group acknowledged a heavy council workload that could delay Fish & Wildlife regulation work. Consensus was to remain flexible regarding timing.

The next steps include scheduling follow-up sessions and providing necessary references for legal code review.

Adjournment