

MAYOR:
Bradley D. Belt

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:
Stephanie Tillerson

TOWN ATTORNEY:
Stafford J. McQuillin III



MAYOR PRO TEMPORE:
Russell A. Berner

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
E. Luke Farrell
Madeleine Kaye
Lance Spencer

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Council Meeting Room and via Zoom
October 22, 2025; 3:00 PM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order:**
- II. Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. Minutes of the September 17, 2025 meeting
- III. Citizen's Comments:**
- IV. Program Updates**
 - A. Shorebird Stewardship Program
 - B. Kiawah Conservancy Projects
 - C. Resiliency Committee
- V. Old Business**
 - A. Article 15, Chapter 5 Fish and Wildlife Regulations Discussion
 - B. Second-generation anticoagulant update and discussion
- VI. New Business**
 - A. None
- VII. Reports:**
 - A. Town of Kiawah Island
 - B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management
 - C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort
 - D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board
 - E. Kiawah Conservancy
 - F. Turtle Patrol
- VIII. Citizen Comments:**
- IX. Chairman's Comments:**
- X. Committee Member Comments:**
- XI. Adjournment:**

FOIA: Notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

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

CHAPTER 5. – OFFENSES AGAINST WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sec. 15-501 – Adoption of State Code

The Town hereby adopts by reference Title 50, Fish, Game and Watercraft, Chapters 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, and 21 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Sec. 15-502 - Definitions

Chumming.means the depositing into water chopped or ground bait consisting of raw meat or fish parts including blood and oil thereof, but excluding poultry, in an attempt to catch fish.

Exotic.animal.means any animal not normally domesticated in the United States or any animal which is wild by nature.

Firearm means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

Personal.watercraft means a vessel, usually less than sixteen feet in length, that uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion and that is intended to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than within the confines of the hull.

Specialty.propcraft means a vessel that is similar in appearance and operation to a personal watercraft but is powered by an outboard or propeller-driven motor.

Vessel means every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane regulated by the federal government, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Watercraft means anything used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water but does not include: a seaplane regulated by the federal government, water skis, aquaplanes, surfboards, windsurfers, tubes, rafts, and similar devices or anything that does not meet construction or operational requirements of the state or federal government for watercraft.

Wildlife means undomesticated nonhuman living things that live in their natural environment.

Sec. 15-503 – Bobcats Protected

It is unlawful to harass, injure, trap, or kill a bobcat.

Sec. 15-504 – Feeding Wildlife

- (a) No person shall purposely feed or make food available for consumption by wildlife on private or public property within the Town
- (b) Each property owner or person having control of the property shall have the duty to remove any materials or devices placed on the owner's property in violation of this section.

- (c) Nothing in this section shall apply to any agent of the Town, County, State of South Carolina or Federal Agency lawfully engaged in a wildlife management program.
- (d) Exception: Bird feeders are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance, provided that the feeders are maintained in a clean and sanitary manner.

Sec. 15-505 – Trapping and hunting of birds prohibited

No person shall trap, hunt, shoot, or attempt to shoot or molest in any manner any bird or bird nests. This section does not apply to legal hunting activities within state waters, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) personnel, persons licensed or otherwise authorized by SCDNR, or the Town's wildlife management personnel.

Sec. 15-506. - Alligator regulations

- (a) No person shall feed or entice with food any alligator or alligators within the Town. This section does not apply to South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) personnel, persons licensed or otherwise authorized by SCDNR, or the Town's wildlife management personnel, when capturing alligators by baiting or enticement.
- (b) No person shall harm, harass or kill any alligator or alligators within the Town. This section does not apply to South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) personnel, persons licensed or otherwise authorized by SCDNR, or the Town's wildlife management personnel.

Sec. 15-507 - Keeping of certain animals prohibited

No person shall keep within the Town limits any horse, mule, cow, swine, goat, sheep, or exotic animal.

Sec. 15-508 – Keeping of certain birds and fowl

No person shall keep within the Town limits any domesticated fowl, including, but not limited to, chickens, ducks, geese or pigeons.

Sec. 15-509 – Removal of animal excrement

The owner or custodian of an animal shall immediately collect, remove and dispose of all excrement deposited by such animal on any beach, public property, street, right-of-way, sidewalk, public way, playground, or upon private property owned by others. The owner or custodian shall place the excrement in a plastic bag or other suitable container and deposit the collection in an approved waste receptacle.

Sec. 15-510 – Chumming prohibited

No chumming shall be allowed on or within 600 feet of the beach. Nothing in this section shall affect or prohibit the baiting of crab traps or the placement of natural bait upon a hook and line.

Sec. 15-511 – Fishing on the beach

Code enforcement officers shall have the authority to require persons engaged in fishing from the beach to cease fishing if, in their judgement, circumstances indicate that cessation of fishing is in the interest of public safety. In the event the code enforcement officer determines that fishing from

the beach may be unsafe for other users of the beach, the code enforcement officer may order any person engaged in fishing from the beach to immediately cease fishing until such time as he or she indicates that it is safe to resume fishing. The code enforcement officer may indicate that fishing may occur at an alternative location on the beach during the time that the cease fishing order is effective. Failure to comply with an order of the code enforcement officer shall be deemed a violation of this section.

Sec. 15-512 – Regulation of gamefish, crustaceans, and shellfish

The Town hereby adopts by reference all bag limits and size restrictions on gamefish, crustaceans, and shellfish established by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Sec. 15-513 – Operation of watercraft

- (a) No person shall operate a personal watercraft, specialty propcraft, or vessel while upon all other waters of this State in excess of idle speed within 50 feet of a moored or anchored vessel, wharf, dock, bulkhead, pier, or person in the water, or within 100 yards of the Atlantic Ocean coast line. The prohibitions contained in this item do not apply to an unoccupied, moored vessel or watercraft or to a person behind a vessel or watercraft who is on water skis or a floating device with the permission of the operator of the vessel or watercraft.
- (b) No person shall chase, harass, molest, worry, or disturb wildlife with a personal watercraft, specialty propcraft, or vessel except while lawfully angling for, hunting, or trapping wildlife.