

**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  
January 14, 2026; 1:00 PM

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order:**
- II. Approval of Minutes:**
  - A. Minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting
- III. Citizen's Comments:**
- IV. Program Updates**
  - A. Shorebird Stewardship Program
  - B. Kiawah Conservancy Projects
  - C. Resiliency Committee
- V. Old Business**
  - A. None
- VI. New Business**
  - A. 2026 Strategic Planning Discussion
- 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 December 10, 2025 Town of Kiawah Island Environmental Committee Meeting**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from October 22, 2025 meeting approved.

### **Meeting Summary**

#### *Composting Initiatives and Schedule Updates*

The Resiliency Committee discussed the town's composting initiatives, particularly the partnership with the marathon and Big Time Resort. Fran Williams is leading efforts to compost materials at the marathon and provide information at the expo. The committee agreed to have Fran present a detailed update at the next meeting. They also reviewed the meeting schedule for next year and discussed potential new members. Finally, Jim mentioned that Article 15, Chapter 5 had been reviewed by the mayor and some changes made, including added language exempting licensed wildlife rehabbers and nature centers.

#### *Local Regulations on Animal Keeping*

The group discussed several local regulations, focusing on definitions and exemptions related to fishing, animal keeping, and watercraft operations. They clarified that chicken necks are not considered chumming and agreed to remove the poultry exemption. The discussion also covered the keeping of bees, with a consensus to allow it for pollinator gardens at Town Hall while prohibiting beehives in residential areas. They noted that native bee houses are permitted. The group expressed confusion about state regulations regarding watercraft operations and prohibitions, acknowledging the need for clearer language.

#### *Bird Banding Presentation*

The group reviewed a presentation by Aaron on bird banding projects, which began in 2009. Aaron explained that the projects focus on songbirds during fall migration, marsh sparrows in winter, painted buntings in summer, and Wilson's plover banding on the beach, with the bands typically remaining on birds for their entire lives.

The committee discussed potential ways to support these efforts, such as increasing shorebird stewards or organizing field trips to the bird banding station.

#### *Bobcat Preservation and Pest Control*

Jim provided an update on the bobcat trapping project, noting a decline in bobcat survival rates to 50% and the loss of three collared bobcats in this year. The group discussed the results of a survey about bobcat preservation, where 80% of respondents indicated it was important. They explored options for addressing the use of toxic compounds by pest control companies, noting

that while the town cannot regulate this directly, the Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA) has the authority to implement restrictions. The group considered organizing a forum with pest control companies, potentially offering food and allowing for both in-person and virtual attendance, to discuss concerns and gather input on reducing toxic compound usage. They also discussed the need to continue publicizing mortality rate data and the importance of homeowners being informed about and engaging with their pest control companies.

#### Kiawah Pesticide Compliance Strategy

The group discussed strategies to enforce pesticide regulations on Kiawah Island, focusing on how to monitor pest control companies' compliance with Bobcat Guaridan pledges. Suggestions included creating a draft communication for homeowners to share with their pest control companies and conducting random checks, potentially tied to the Gate Pass system. The group agreed to start by testing 15 pest control companies with property owner permission, rather than approaching companies directly. They also discussed involving regimens, staff, and the Conservancy to build momentum for the initiative.

#### **Adjournment**