



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The Town Attorney was present and there was a quorum of Council members present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Craig Bloszinsky
MPT Allen Oliver
Commissioner John Ellen
Commissioner David Heglar
Commissioner Dennis Panicali

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief – Mike Bowden
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy
Director of Recreation & Events – Nikki Keely
Director of Development and Compliance – John Batson
Town Clerk – Beth Chase
Public Works Director – Jimmy Mesimer
Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver

Mayor Bloszinsky called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner Ellen gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Accept the resignation of Pam Hicks from the Marketing Committee
2. Approve closing Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenues from 1-10 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2023 for the Kure Beach Farewell Summer Jazz Funeral, Approve closing Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenues from the early morning hours through 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 18, 2023 and Saturday, November 25, 2023 for the Kure Beach Holiday Market, Approve closing Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenues from the early morning hours through 10 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023 for the Holiday Whoobie Whatty, Allow participation by food truck vendors during event hours on Friday, October 6th, Saturday, November 18th, Saturday, November 25th, and Friday, December 15th at the Ocean Front Park/Atlantic Avenue
3. Approve the 2023 Masonboro Commons Hold Harmless Agreement for Emergency Preparation
4. Minutes:
 - August 21, 2023 Legislative Hearing
 - August 21, 2023 Regular
 - August 21, 2023 Closed
 - September 6, 2023 Special



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MOTION- Commissioner Ellen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Wilkinson, resident at 625 Settlers Lane read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Tracey Mitchell, Beachwalk President read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Judy Larrick, resident at 645 Settlers Lane read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Jennifer Ames, resident at 313 Atlantic Avenue stated:

- She is requesting Town Council to install a sign at the intersection of M Avenue and Fort Fisher, citizens seem to take that crosswalk as a suggestion
- She thought it would get better after tourist season, but it has not so asking Town Council to do something till they get permanent fixture in place

Roy Erwin, resident at 301 Settlers Lane read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Bike/Ped Advisory Committee

Chairperson Linqust stated:

- Members of the Bike/Ped Committee attended the NC Bike/Walk Summit, so the Committee did not meet this past month
- Commissioner Ellen had requested the committee to look more into information about E Bikes and found that most cities are still trying to figure out how to address the issue as they are still relatively new
- Requesting Commissioner Ellen and Commissioner Panicali would join herself and the police department to review the information received so far on E Bikes



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DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Finance Department

Finance Officer Copenhaver stated the payment portal is now in place. Citizens can create accounts to set up recurring payments, select e-bill and may now pay using banking information.

2. Fire Department

Fire Chief Kennedy stated:

- Starting a junior firefighter program around January 1st for individuals who are 16-18 years old that live in the community
- If you live in Carolina Beach or over the bridge you are welcome to join as well
- Next Monday hosting a meeting at the Fire House at 7pm to meet with the juniors and their parents to try to see how we can best add value to the department

3. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Mesimer stated he met with Chris Holmes a structural engineer to look at the walkway and the bulkhead. He is going to send an estimate and a evaluation of the bulkhead in the near future which he will share with Council.

4. Recreation Department

Recreation Director Keely commented need to schedule a Public Input Session for the renovations for Joe Eakes Park for citizens to provide comments. Next Thursday on September 28th on National Neighbor Day there will be a special event from 4-7pm for citizens to attend.

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to schedule a Special meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to hold the Public Input Session for Joe Eakes Park

SECOND- Commissioner Panicali

VOTE- Unanimous

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

1. Continued Discussion of the Beachwalk Property

MPT Oliver commented the Town had hoped to have the PARTF grant waiver back but nothing has been received by this afternoon. The appraisal came back very low. Does Council want to wait another month for the waiver or receive the property tonight?

Town Attorney Eldridge stated everything is ready to go.

Commissioner Heglar commented he thinks the Town should just accept the property and move on.



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MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to authorize the Mayor to accept the deed and to execute an easement agreement

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

None.

MAYOR UPDATES

Mayor Bloszinsky stated the National Guard has renamed a portion of the base the Kure Beach Training Center for the support citizens have given. The project overview templates at the Public input Session, some residents said they could not see them. He would recommend putting them on the Town website for all to be able to review.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Ellen stated he is the Town rep for the WMPO. From January through May of next year the DOT will be closing one side of the Cape Fear memorial bridge for repairs.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into Closed Session for Attorney-Client Privilege per (GS 143-318.11(a)(3))

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to go into Closed Session for Attorney-Client Privilege per (GS 143-318.11(a)(3)) at 6:39 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to return to open session at 7:30 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

VOTE- Unanimous

Attorney Eldridge stated in closed session no actions were taken, no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous



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Beth Chase

ATTEST: Beth Chase, Town Clerk

Craig Bloszinsky

Craig Bloszinsky, Mayor

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. A recording of the meeting is available on the town's website under government>agendas&minutes

Comments For 18 September 2023 Town Council Meeting

In June I was asked by representatives of our Town to serve as one of three "Citizen Representatives" on a feasibility study relative to a proposed "Island Greenway".

Accepting this request, I resolved my role within this Steering Committee as ensuring that Kure Beach Citizen concerns are made clear to those sponsoring this Study. Additionally, I consider it my responsibility to make certain that Study Planners and Sponsors address equities impacting the Town of Kure Beach and provide specific information needed for decision making.

My comments will not address the many "Hot Button Issues" about which the Town Council has previously heard from our citizens. Rather, I will address one topic – COST ESTIMATES and COMPARISONS.

The Town Council endorsed the notion of a "Trail and Sidewalk Feasibility" study. This endorsement was predicated on assessing alternative routes - to include Dow Road, Settlers Lane and Existing Surface Streets – with the expectation of individual route cost estimates.

Subsequently we learned the grant proposal did not give Kure Beach the opportunity to be co-applicant; rather the East Coast Greenway was applying for the grant.

A week and a-half ago, a two-day Island Greenway Trail Study Workshop was held in Kure Beach. On DAY ONE, the Project Team conducted a Field Visit – focusing first on the MOTSU area (Settlers Lane), then Dow Road and finally existing Surface Streets.

As relevant data specific to each of these routes was being collected, I asked various of the Study Staff Planners and Client Sponsors (ECG & NC DOT) about COST ESTIMATES related to the various individual routes actively being assessed. Each time I was advised that multiple ESTIMATES were outside CONTRACT scope.

On the morning of DAY TWO (September 7th) was the formal Steering Committee Meeting. In assessing findings, the Lead Planner ask the question "What are we missing?"

At this point a small "kerfuffle" ensued. I noted that the "Draft Scope of Work" was not clear about providing alternate route cost comparisons as a "deliverable". I shared my understanding that the Town of Kure Beach only signed on to endorsing this undertaking because knowing the "difference" in cost for each alignment would be a KEY element in the Council's decision-making. Too, Council members were of the understanding that this information would be obtained.

Comments For 18 September 2023 Town Council Meeting

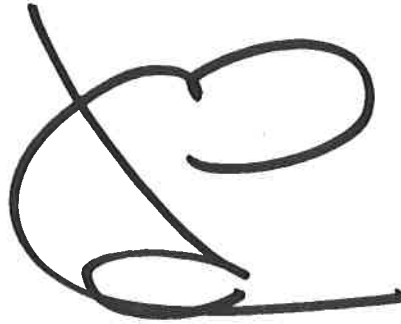
The planners again advised that this level of detail for each alternative route was outside the scope of the contract. Pointedly, I advised that Town Council previously made this a noteworthy element for Kure Beach engagement in this study.

To my knowledge, there has been nothing further on this item. My concern is that the Feasibility study will not provide Council with the information needed for decision-making.

Gentlemen – OVER TO YOU.

Ed Wilkinson

625 Settlers Lane, Kure Beach

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Wilkinson', written in a cursive style.

September 18, 2023

Gentlemen,

As you know, there have been ongoing drainage issues over the years with several of the homes along Settlers Lane whose properties back to the Maritime Forest. In talks with the Town, MOTSU had granted a drainage easement to assist with this water mitigation.

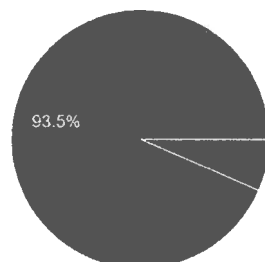
On August 31st, Beachwalk held an informational session for our membership to discuss this proposed project. Mayor Bloszinsky was in attendance and was kind enough to answer questions and speak to some of the MOTSU requirements for such an easement. Post meeting, the Board of Directors submitted a community survey in an attempt to capture the community sentiment and consensus based on the information shared.

Based on the scope of the project, the required poly coated/barbed wire topped fencing, and the price tag of such project (\$700,000 budgeted and earmarked by Public Works) the consensus among Beachwalk residents is clear. In the interest of the community as a whole, we would like to officially ask Council to permanently suspend any forward motion on this project. We feel that this funding would be better spent in other, more impactful projects. Additionally, this position aligns with and is consistent with our message to Council regarding fencing and the talks around a potential bike/pedestrian path behind the homes along Settlers Lane.

Of those who participated, almost 94% supported the suspension of the project, with only two in favor. To add, those two in favor live on north Settlers Lane and their homes would not have been impacted by the drain. For record, we have included the survey names, addresses, and position regarding the cessation of this project.

Do you support the proposed pipe drainage project behind the homes on Settlers Lane and the MOTSU requirements for such an easement?

31 responses



- Yes. Please continue with this project.
- No. Please suspend the project.
- Abstain

Tracy Mitchell, President
Beachwalk HOA

Timestamp**Do you support the proposed pipe drainage project behind the homes on Settlers Lane and the MOTSU requirements for such an easement?****Please identify your vote by name and address:**

9/14/2023 11:19:42 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 15:59:25 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 16:33:12 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 17:17:05 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 17:39:42 No. Please suspend the project.

9/14/2023 17:39:46 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 18:26:09 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 18:29:10 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 19:02:43 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 19:27:34 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 20:03:43 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 20:04:05 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 20:12:18 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 20:36:12 No. Please suspend the project.
9/14/2023 20:38:57 No. Please suspend the project.

9/14/2023 22:16:38 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 3:08:03 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 6:47:16 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 7:17:27 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 8:38:59 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 9:34:05 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 10:06:42 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 11:26:11 No. Please suspend the project.
9/15/2023 11:30:51 No. Please suspend the project.

9/15/2023 15:42:31 Yes. Please continue with this project.
9/15/2023 18:16:52 No. Please suspend the project.
9/16/2023 12:31:56 No. Please suspend the project.
9/17/2023 7:27:07 No. Please suspend the project.
9/17/2023 8:53:09 No. Please suspend the project.
9/17/2023 11:32:11 Yes. Please continue with this project.
9/17/2023 21:46:17 No. Please suspend the project.

Jeff & Tracy Mitchell
218 Fifth Ave N; KB

- ✓ Ed Strauss 205 Settlers lane
- ✓ Hans Sjoquist, 130 Settlers Ln, Kure Beach
- ✓ Megan & Silas Garrett, 133 Settlers Ln
Angela hashem. 206 5th ave n
- ✓ Jerome & Judy Herring
201 Settlers Lane
Kure Beach, NC 28449
- Kristen and Todd Brandt, 130 N. 5th Ave.
- Greg Porter, 113 N. 5th Ave.
- Sommer -125 N 5th
- Kathy Clark 122 Fifth Ave. N, Kure Beach
- ✓ Gary & Kathy Stickley 125 Settlers Lane
Emily wood emilywood926@gmail.com
- ✓ walter & maryanne jankowski 333settlers lane, kure beach
- Chris Bertram, 222 5th Ave N
Gutmann 213 Settlers Ln
Drema Campbell
301 5th Avenue N
Kure Beach, NC 28449
- Sheri Baker 201 5th Ave N Kure Beach NC 28449
- Michael Young 510B Surf Drive Kure Beach
- Raymond Atwater 516 Shell Drive
- Jon Cagle 202 fifth Ave N
- James Craig, 121 N 5th Ave
- Karl Hespeler 314 5th Ave North
- Susanna Vennerbeck 113 N. 5th Ave.
- Lee and Pat Brennan, 210 N 5th Avenue
- ✓ Michael Vukelich
321 Settlers Ln.
- ✓ Bill and Peggy Bryan, Settlers Lane
- ✓ Roy Erwin 301 Settlers Lane
Jim Craig, 121 N 5th Ave
JOE TRUELOVE 512 SHELL DR
- ✓ George Schierle 325 settlers lane
- ✓ Peter and Margret Hoyer. 134 Settlers Lane

To: KB Town Council, Sept. 18, 2023.

Tonight I'm again asking Council to Protect the Motsu Maritime Forest and wetlands. Trees and wetlands protect from winds, floods during hurricanes, drink water, absorb carbon dioxide, emit oxygen, provide vital habitat for birds and wildlife, all critical in today's climate changes and dwindling destruction of habitats.

In December, Council agreed to add Dow Road as an alternative bike path route to the proposed Motsu fire lane path in the Feasibility Study with cost differences of both. But then in January, without prior notice, Council approved Resolution R23-01 "supporting East Coast Greenway's (ECG) application" to NCDOT for that Grant. IMO, that put the Fox in charge of the Henhouse, with ECG now paying for the study itself!

Last week was the first meeting of the Feasibility Study Steering Committee and Open House. What was supposed to be "site visits" on 9/6/23 ended up with the Committee walking down the STREET of Settlers Ln with an occasional look only at some residence's backyards. That was a travesty with no way for them to view the issues with a path in Motsu land with ditches, wetlands, flood areas, old Dow Plant obstacles, environmental issues, wildlife fenced impediments.

Then the next evening the Open House consisted of "sticky notes" being placed on maps with no way to know who wrote them, were they tax payers, living off Island, etc?? Surely in 2023 there is a better alternative than sticky notes??

The next day, the Steering Committee met as a group. Although I was happy to learn that the Motsu Maritime Forest South of K is now OFF THE TABLE and PROTECTED, we also learned that both Costs of the different alignments and an Environmental Study are NOT PART OF THIS STUDY CONTRACT.

Therefore, this Feasibility Study does not adhere to Council's initial approval requirements, and I am asking Council tonight to also take OFF THE TABLE, THE MOTSU LAND BEHIND SETTLERS LANE IN THIS FEASIBILITY STUDY. Even the KB Bike/Ped Committee now agrees in their "Position Paper" that the fire land behind Settlers should only be used for Emergency vehicles!

It is now time for Council to protect this Maritime Forest, wildlife and residents and put this 20 year issue finally to rest!

Judy Larrick

645 Settlers Ln, Kure Beach

I wanted to share my observations of the Open House and Feasibility study on 9/6 and 9/7.

First, I was disappointed MOTSU did not send a representative for the steering committee.

I was disappointed there were no arrangements for them to go down the entire fire lane one way or another. They did get a glimpse behind a few homes. I asked Kimberly, with ALTA, if it would be possible if they could come back in a couple of months after the mowing in the fire lane has been completed. She said yes but the town would have to pay for it. I am not sure how they can make an educated decision on the cost factors without seeing all the routes and the challenges of each route.

There was very large turnout at the open house. I assumed their map showed all 5 routes that were being considered. By the time I got there all I could see were sticky notes on the map and it was very hard to see all routes proposed.

My final observation is the one board where you could put dots on the items that mattered the most to you. I believe the cost item had the least amount of dots on it. Stakeholders don't seem to care about cost until their taxes go up or projects are put on hold because of cost issues.

At the Town Council meeting held in December 2022 there was much discussion of what the town was expecting from the feasibility study. It was agreed council wanted all routes considered and the costs associated. I now understand that ALTA will come up with one route and the costs only associated with this route. I also heard this comment several times in the discussion by Councilman Oliver: "The bike/ped committee's masterplan has been endorsed by town council". I believe this is the 3rd time this issue has come up over the years. I spoke to town council a while back stating the residents of Settlers Lane are sick and tired of this issue coming up every few years. If the majority of town council doesn't support the fire lane then how can it be you endorse their master plan. As long as the fire lane is in the master plan, it will continue to come up. It's time to readdress this master plan or no longer endorse it.