

Kure Beach Shoreline Access, Beach Protection Committee

Minutes of April 2, 2024

Members Present:

Rick Jackson, Co-Chair

Elizabeth Kiwaha, Secretary

Ann Hughes

Randy Bock

Pat Edgecomb, Alternate

Pat Triplett, Co-Chair

Don Campbell

John Kiwaha

Kelly Graves

Dennis Panicali, Council Liaison - Absent

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Rick Jackson.

Prior to going inside for our meeting, we gathered in the parking lot for a demonstration of the BeBot beach sand sifter by Keep New Hanover Beautiful by Dick Brightman. This device filters the sand 4 inches below the surface to filter out trash by sifting it. It travels slowly as it works to sift trash out of the sand. Not only is it practical and beneficial in eliminating some debris that may end up in the ocean, but it is also a great educational tool as beach goers can see it working and thereby demonstrating how much trash is left on the beach and the importance of keeping our beaches clean.

Rick asked if there were any changes to the March minutes or the agenda. There were no changes noted to be made. Ann motioned to approve, seconded by John.

Two guests were present, Helen Peterson and Jennifer.

Old Business:

Adopt-a-Beach Update: Ann Hughes – No new registrations. There are currently 4 registrants.

Kelly asked if we could put a sign up on the recreation center asking if anyone would like to adopt a beach while they're visiting? Ann said she hasn't checked into that but can. A sign can also be posted during the community festival.

Beach Sponsorship Update: Rick stated that Kelly was able to generate results with her efforts, which is great. Thanks to Kelly for her hard work.

Ocean Life Project: Pat T. – Pat talked with Nikki and she's good with the new approach. Pat hasn't had an opportunity to get the training plan together for this summer, however they are working on an outline.

Guest Helen has an idea – she talked with the recreation department about an idea that she'd like to share. Helen has been coming to Kure Beach since the 1960s. Many years ago, they played volleyball on the beach, there used to be two poles there to attach the net to. She is bringing up the idea to put in the poles in again so visitors and residents can enjoy volleyball on the beach again.

Ann said CAMA may have an issue with it. We need to check beach regulations. Rick said he will check with Nikki and the town as we will need Town approval.

Helen also asked how much info we can share about the two new crossovers at L&M.

Rick has talked with operations. The sea oats are planted in May or later. Regarding the piles of sand, they said to let the dunes stabilize before they do anything. They want to let it happen naturally.

Helen said she knows how they will be used with the fishermen and families with their carts. Now they have multiple stairs so it's difficult for families and people with carts. They also made them shorter so they aren't as easy to get people down them. At the end there used to be benches on either side and you have so many seniors and families who like to sit there. At the end of M&N they are still there, but the benches were not replaced on L.

Around the turn of the century, 3-4 mayors ago, they got a grant for our boardwalk. Originally it was supposed to go from K to L and continue to go on.

Rick said as far as he knows the ramps will stay the way they are. Pg 71 in the new beach management plan says you can go 6 feet beyond the dune and it's now 6 feet before the dune. The two that were just replaced were initially put in privately and then eventually taken over by the town. Per CAMA, they need to replace them the way they were, they need CAMA approval to make changes.

Jennifer wanted to thank us, she was at the budget meeting and saw that they had 6 thousand sea oats to plant, and they can volunteer to help.

Council Update: Dennis is absent, no update.

New Business:

- **Toy Box Progress** –Rick has seen them, and they are heavy. The lifeguard stands may not be able to support them. We need to have them re-designed to go with something lighter and smaller.
- Rick talked with the lifeguards and the fisherman, and they suggested a sign to warn people to stay away from the pier. A “No swimming/surfing within 50 feet of pier” sign.
- **Feeding of the Birds** – The town council is considering creating an ordinance with a civil penalty.
- **Turtle Friendly Street lights** – Ann and Pat T. surveyed the lights. They oddly enough have signs that say they are turtle friendly lights donated. Pat T. and Ann created a list of the lights that need to be updated. Rick will talk with Jimmy.
- **E-Bikes on the beach** – No update.

- Ann and Pat T. asked if we knew what is going on with the large hole near the pier. She believes it may be a drain to filter the runoff but isn't sure. Ann said it looks like a sink hole. Pat T. thinks someone may have dug it larger.
- Pat T. said during their search they saw a handicap spot by Bud and Joe's that's now covered up, i.e. painted over, so it's deceiving in that it's hard to tell if it's an actual handicap parking space or not. Pat T. will bring it up with the parking committee.
- **Community Festival** – to be held Saturday, 4/27 from 11-1 and 1-3, volunteers are Don, Pat T, Pat E, Ann, and Rick. John and Liz are out of town that weekend. Rick will put a schedule out for us to sign up for a time slot.

Motion to adjourn was made by Pat T. seconded by Ann.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next meeting to be held May 7th, 2024.

Minutes submitted by Liz Kiwaha.