

Meeting of the Kitty Hawk Recreation Committee, July 27, 2021

In attendance:

Committee Members:

Paul Henriques - Chair

Tom Heffner -

Charlotte Walker

Timothy Fish

Kip Tabb - Secretary

Others in attendance

Mayor Gary Perry

Sandy Myers Town of Kitty Hawk

Willie Midget Kitty Hawk Public Works director

CM=Committee Member

Meeting Called to Order by Chair Paul Henriques 6:00 p.m.

Old Business

Chairman Henriques brought up approval of Recreation Committee Master Plan

Tom Hefner noted that Heritage Days was still listed in the Master Plan as a short-term goal.

Discussion followed with Committee Member Fish noting the language specifies “when funding is available.” Committee member Heffner suggested putting the town name with the day. Committee member Tabb agreed that a celebration of the heritage of Kitty Hawk should include the town name.

CM Heffner suggested changing the name to Kitty Hawk Community Days as a way to celebrate the town.

Discussion concerning last time Heritage Days was held, with Mayor Perry recalling that it was probably around 2007 and was discontinued in conjunction with the recession of 2007. Mayor Perry also noted that at present the town does not seem to have a place large enough to hold the event.

CM suggested that he had property that could be used.

Chair Henriques suggested the discussion be tabled for the time being, but the name change and associated issued could be discussed later.

CM Tabb suggested the Heritage Days be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chair Henriques asked for motion to approve Master Plan as written

CM Tabb moved to approve. CM Fish Second
Master Plan approved by Unanimous vote.

Correction to minutes July 27

Original document quoted Mayor Perry saying “when you put up sandbags...”
corrected to “when you put up sand fencing...”

Election of Officers

CM Fish nominated Chair Henriques for a second term. CM Tabb second.

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

State of Birch Lane Trail, Kitty Hawk Woods

Chair Henriques showed slides of trail condition, discussing specifically how dangerous certain situations would be for someone riding a bike through the trail.

He also noted that the middle section of the trail was often difficult to follow, saying, “It was really hard to tell that there was a trail,” adding, “I’m bringing that up because we’ve opened this trail up to the visitors and citizens. I think it needs a little bit more work in the middle.”

He went on to say that he had spoken to Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve Manager Erik Alnes about the condition of the trail.

Alnes summarized the Reserve management plan indicating the state is ultimately in charge of maintenance and upkeep, although the property (Birch Lane Trail) is owned by the town. Henriques asked Mayor Perry to summarize his understanding

“The town and state both share maintenance responsibility, and we acknowledged that when we went through that mountain bike scenario. So, I’m a little surprised he is telling you that the state has to do the maintenance on the whole thing. The end result was supposed to be volunteers were going to be made available, and under their guidance, the volunteers would go out and do whatever they’re allowed to do. And if that was unsatisfactory then the town council was going look at it...but the first step was volunteers,” the mayor said.

The Chair indicated he was certified to perform volunteer maintenance.

Kitty Hawk Public Works director Willie Midgett addressed the Committee telling them that there are plans to place arrows and mile markers.

Porta Potties

Chair Henriques, noting that when he first got on the committee three years ago, one of his goals was to increase the number of restroom facilities along the ocean front. He noted there were challenges including right of way, adequate property, odor.

He asked that a discussion be opened as a way to address the issue.

CM Tabb asked if there were criteria for the placement of ports potties.

Supervisor Midgett said the facilities are serviced twice a week, adding space is definitely the issue. He recommended limiting the number because of space adding that nothing can be placed on the ocean side.

Mayor Perry suggested that if additional parking is added, restroom facilities could be a part of the plan.

Mayor Perry suggested that a future council can look at the idea from an engineering perspective.

Bike Path

CM Tabb showed photograph at what appears to be a dangerous intersection at the intersection of NC12 on the north end of Kitty Hawk. At the Hess Gas station.

Tabb also raised the issue of mountain bike use in Kitty Hawk Woods comparing the apparent restricted use of mountain bike usage on KH Woods trails.

Tabb volunteered to take the lead on discussing mountain bike use in the Reserve as well as the NC12 intersection.

Chair Henriques noted that the original 1994 management plan for Kitty Hawk Woods was still in effect and had not been updated.

Additional Officer nomination

Paul Henriques nominated Kip Tabb, secretary

Charlotte Walker second.

Nomination approved unanimously

Mayor Perry Remarks re Mountain Bikes and Kitty Hawk Woods Use

Mayor Perry spoke on the intent of the original Kitty Hawk Woods Management Plan, saying that he had discussed it with former mayor Clifton Perry who was on the original commission that created the 1994 plan.

Mayor Perry said, "He (Clifton Perry) said mountain biking comes from all over the world. They did not want that in the first place...And that's kind of his way that the management plan is built."

He also spoke about the need to understand how the various parties think that are stakeholders, saying environmental groups tend to be very cautious about allowing access and that it was important to go slowly and find areas of common agreement to move plans forward.

Public Comment

Cheryl White, Hurdle Street

Showed slides of flooding in the area. Also damage to dunes along NC12 in the area. Voicing concerns that the Kitty Hawk Beach had reached maximum use, noting the entire Kitty Hawk Beach was only 3.2 miles long.

She and her neighbors were opposed to the idea of a Hurdle Street parking, indicating that it would create security and safety concerns.

She raised the issue of eminent domain to take her property based on her reading of the minutes.

Chair Henriques clarified that Tom Hefner was opposed in the minutes and that the committee member did not support eminent domain, but the issue was raised in exploring all options, but that did not mean the committee supported that option.

Chair Henriques explained that the role of the Recreation Committee was to look at recreation issues and make recommendations based on facts that were presented to them.

CM Tabb motion to adjourn.

CM Fish second.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes respectively submitted 10/19/21

Approved on 1/25/22