

Town of Kitty Hawk Recreation Committee Minutes April 26, 2022

Meeting called to order by Chair Paul Henriques at 6:00

In attendance:

Committee Members

Paul Henriques - Chair

Kip Tabb - Secretary

Ryan Thibodeau

Tim Fish

Tom Hefner

Town of Kitty Hawk

Council Woman Charlotte Walker

Town of Kitty Hawk Sandy Myers

Kitty Hawk Town Manager Andy Stewart

Minutes:

Minutes approved without objection

No public comment

Old Business

Discussion re Kitty Hawk Woods – Chair Paul Henriques

The chair recapped discussion he had had with KH Woods Site Manager Eric Alnes about trail maintenance in Kitty Hawk Woods. The Chair indicated he had had discussions with Alnes on the issue of maintenance indicating there had been some progress made on being open to more maintenance efforts including sweeping pine straw from the trail periodically. The issue of liability and adequate trail maintenance was addressed in the meeting.

Noting that Kitty Hawk Woods was somewhat in a unique category of protected environment, the Chair said, “The problem and we keep coming back to this is, it's not a state park. It's a maritime forest. And they have very different guidelines,” adding, “The problem is I'm not I'm not sure exactly what those guidelines are.”

Discussion of Heritage Days

Brief discussion with more information needed. Town of Kitty Hawk Office Manager Sandy Myers indicated she had historic documentation of past Heritage Days. Kip Tabb said he would meet with her to get the notebook.

Pump Track

Brief discussion. Town Council has taken up the issue is looking at funding options. Chair mentioned he had a discussion with Dare County Public Services Director Tim White about placing the pump track at the county Kitty Hawk Park and White seemed very much in favor of the idea.

The next step is creating a design for the track, which will determine cost.

Alternate Beach Parking Plan – Kip Tabb

At the previous meeting Kip Tabb had suggested it may be possible to lease little used parking spaces from beach businesses. He did contact Town Attorney Casey Varnell on the issue but had not yet heard back.

However, the town has subsequently added parking at a number of side streets, alleviating much of the parking issue.

New Business

Port a Potties at Beach Access

The new access parking will have port a potties.

Councilman Thibodeau asked if showers and similar to what is available at Lillian Street is part of the plan. Councilwoman Walker thought it was doubtful this year, point to a \$3500 tap fee to use Dare County Water.

Discussion continued of other potential parking areas including space that may be available in the vicinity of the Kitty Hawk Post Office.

Birch Lane Return Trail

Hoping to expand on the Birch Lane Trail, Chairman Henriques said, "My thought on that trail was always to have that as a loop not just down the center of the property and just one way trail. It's always been in my mind when I originally walked that and proposed it to this committee.

What was being proposed is a parallel trail that would create a loop trail giving almost 4 miles of connected trail in the Birch Lane section of Kitty Hawk Woods.

According to Chairman Henrique, Site Manager Alnes is aware of the idea and "...seems open to it."

It is unclear if the Kitty Hawk Woods Advisory Committee will have to approve the new trail.

Additional Kitty Hawk Woods Discussion

A possible connector trail between Otila Way and Covered Bridge Road. The town and public have access to Covered Bridge Road, but much of the land surrounding it is private. Included in the discussion was the limited parking available at the Barlow Trailhead at Ridge Road.

Update Wright Brother Tribute Museum

Councilwoman Walker updated the committee on the status of the Wright Brothers Tribute Museum tentatively planned for the property adjacent to the Kitty Hawk Outer Banks Visitors Center, showing a video of what the museum will house including replicas of the various Wright Brothers gliders and aircraft as well as an observatory and amphitheater.

The video emphasized the project will be funded completely through private sources and maintained without public funding. The project is currently expected to cost approximately \$45 million according to Councilwoman Walker.

Improvements to Beach Road Multi-use Path

Discussion focused on multi-use path along Virginia Dare Trail, comparing the path to other towns.

Chair noted it's almost possible to go from Corolla to Southern Shores using a multi-use path, but in Kitty Hawk, there is no path along Virginia Dare Trail until Kill Devil Hills, and then the path extends to South Nags Head.

The consensus was that if improvement were to be made, it would have to be on the west side of the road.

Tabb made a motion to look at ways to develop a multi use path on Virginia Dare Trail.

Ryan Thibodeau second. Passed 5-0

Tabb motion: Look at pedestrian crossing lights on Virginia Trail.

Tim Fish second. Passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectively submitted 7/25/22, Kip Tabb, Secretary

Minutes approved at the 7/26/22 Recreation Meeting

Supplemental Information:

Notes from Kip Tabb re Heritage Days, email 5/19/22

Sandy and Rec Committee,

After going through a number of years of meetings and notes on Kitty Hawk Heritage Day, a couple of things really stand out.

First of all, the amount of time, effort and organization required to put the event on is extraordinary--even daunting.

Secondly the event requires a significant amount of space to stage. It's hard to say exactly how much area is needed, but it seems to me an absolute minimum is five acres, especially if a stage is used for live music and storytelling. A bit of a variable in this is parking, but that could be a nightmare all its own.

The documentation is clear that the Heritage Day Celebration is about the culture and history of Kitty Hawk. Looking over the events and planning it's clear that was an important part of the planning and focus of the events. The question I am left with, though, is what direct benefit accrues to the Kitty Hawk businesses that invest time and resources in the event? That may be the determining factor about whether or not we move forward with this.

I may have mentioned this in the past; regardless it's worth repeating if I did. Looking at the Duck Jazz Festival or even the Duck July 4 parade--both events are tied directly to that town's businesses. Same thing with what Manteo does with July 4, their New Year's celebration, and Dare Days.

What both towns have that Kitty Hawk does not have is a compact pedestrian friendly shopping district.

All of this does not preclude reviving Heritage Day, but I do think if we decide to move forward with it, we'll have to rethink how we're going to do it.

Notes from Tim Fish re Virginia Dare Trail Right of Way, email, 6/20

On another subject, I checked with NCDOT about the the R/W width for NC 12 (Beach Rd). I was told it was 60 feet wide the entire length through Kitty Hawk