

Kitty Hawk Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 28, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: Kitty Hawk Town Hall

1. Call to Order & Attendance

Meeting called to order at **6:00 PM**.

Members Present: Paul Henriques, Peter Mantz, Dave Klebitz, Ryan Thibodeau

Members Absent: Charlotte Walker, Kip Tabb

2 and 3. Agenda Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

- The committee reviewed and agreed to follow the proposed agenda.
 - The minutes from the October 29, 2024, meeting were discussed and approved.
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4. Public Comment

Speaker: Joe (last name unclear) who lives on West Eckner Street.

- **Concerns over cyclist safety:** Joe expressed concern about the lack of safe biking routes in Kitty Hawk, emphasizing that current road conditions discourage safe cycling.
- **Current issues:**
 - Limited options for cyclists to travel north and south safely through town.
 - The bypass, Beach Road, and Woods Road / Kitty Hawk Rd were cited as problematic for cyclists due to narrow shoulders and driver behavior.
 - Shared a personal experience with a local contractor that nearly caused an accident.
- **Suggested solutions:**
 - Proposed a 2.5-mile loop using the power line property that starts near the Wal Mart shopping center area, and extends to Town Hall.
 - Recommended a paved parking area somewhere like Eckner Street to allow for public access.
 - Noted issues on Wood Road Multi Use Path, where root intrusion and improper sealing have made conditions unsafe.
- **Committee Response:** Members acknowledged the need for improved pedestrian infrastructure and agreed to evaluate how this could be included in the town's multi-use

path planning. There was discussion on the feasibility of utilizing easements, including potential partnerships with utility companies.

5. Old Business

Dominion Update

- The committee discussed the ongoing work with Dominion Energy regarding easements for the trail project.
- The town is awaiting confirmation on specific right-of-way allowances.
- Potential improvements to cross the easement were discussed.

Sandpiper Cay Letter from Attorney

- The committee reviewed the letter from legal counsel regarding concerns over property access and trail development near Sandpiper Cay.
- It was clarified that the letter was a formality, ensuring that legal concerns were documented. No major roadblocks are anticipated.

Trail Progress and Signage

- The first phase of the multi-use trail around Town Hall is nearing completion.
- Discussion focused on:
 - Signage placement – Directional and informational signs.
 - Compliance – Ensuring accessibility standards are met.
 - Bridgeway construction – Evaluating materials and costs for connecting sections over drainage areas.
- The town might already have some of the materials for bridge construction, which will help reduce costs.

Update for the Memorial Marker

- The committee reviewed the proposed location and discussed potential designs of the memorial marker recognizing the history of the U.S. Life Saving Service in Kitty Hawk.
 - Structural requirements for durability in coastal conditions were discussed.
 - The idea of a small gazebo or covered structure was considered, possibly at the Kitty Hawk bathhouse, but additional funding or grants will be necessary.
 - Research into state historical grants is ongoing.
 - Paul and Pete are going to meet at the proposed site to further discuss.
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6. New Business

Information from Meeting with Head of Dare County Parks and Rec

- Report provided on discussions with Dare County Parks and Recreation regarding collaboration opportunities.
- Key points:
 - Potential for linking Kitty Hawk's trails to the larger Dare County system.
 - Possible funding or partnership opportunities for playground enhancements and youth sports facilities.
 - Increasing volunteer participation in maintaining public recreation areas.

Connection of Woods Road to Moore Shore

- The committee discussed the long-term goal of developing a multi-use path from Woods Road to Moore Shore Road.
- Concerns about right-of-way access were noted, requiring further review.
- The committee will explore additional ways to demonstrate our support for the project.
- Ryan and Dave to help come up with some basic design plans.

Master Plan Review

- **The Master Plan Review took nearly two hours.** The updated document will reflect all changes discussed and serve as the record of what was modified.

Proposed Budget

Current Budget Status:

- Approximately **\$9,463 remains in the current budget**, with a significant portion allocated to the Town Hall trail project.
- Some of the remaining funds will be used for **signage, bridge materials, and other improvements.**

Budget Planning for Next Year:

- Discussed \$4,000 - \$5,000 for structural design related to the historical marker project.
- Additional funding may be requested for:
 - Trail expansion projects.
 - Recreational maps.
 - New accessibility beach access improvements.

- Members will submit final budget recommendations before the February 21 deadline.
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7. Items from Council Liaison – Volunteer Needs

- More volunteers are needed for trail maintenance, bridge construction, and sign installation.
 - Suggestions for increasing engagement:
 - Partnering with local Boy Scout troops for trail projects.
 - Establishing a "Recreation Ambassador" role for a high school student to assist with outreach.
 - Creating monthly social media spotlights on volunteer efforts to encourage participation.
 - The committee discussed recruiting a volunteer to manage recreation-related social media content.
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8. Items Brought Up by Committee Members

- Discussion of additions to small neighborhood parks, though the focus remains on completing existing projects.
 - The need to document spending decisions for grant applications.
 - Reminder about the Heritage Event and potential ways to do something similar in the future.
 - Possible funding for additional recreational events, youth programs, or fitness activities.
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9. Next Meeting Date

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at Kitty Hawk Town Hall.
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10. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at **9:00 PM**.