

Minutes Environmental Resources Committee Meeting
August 16, 2016
(First Meeting)

Committee Members Present: Richard Hilderman
Jan Harris
(one vacant seat)

Others Present: Pete Larkin, Sunset Beach Councilman; Karen Joseph, Charlie Nern, John Corbett, Jerry Ottenni

Richard Hilderman opened the meeting with an explanation of the creation of the Environmental Resource Committee, and then turned the floor over to Jan Harris for Introduction of Committee members. Both members gave a brief statement about their environmental qualifications.

Pete Larkin stated that he would like to see the meetings be very informal with lots of participation from the public.

Richard Hilderman told all attendees that the ERC meetings would be very informal and welcomed those present to sit at the table. He also told the meeting attendees that the Committee would hold bi-monthly meetings.

Richard Hilderman described what the Committee was charged with the Proposed Dredging of the Jinks Creek Area. Pete Larkin objected to the use of ".Jinks Creek Area" as the description of the dredging of the four finger canals, the feeder canal, the bay area, Mary's and Turtle Creeks, and Jinks Creek. Karen Joseph also objected to this and said that "words matter." It was decided that the project would be called as the 2016 Shoreline Management and Dredge project.

Pete Larkin informed the Committee that a number of people had requested that Blane Creek be considered in the Dredging proposal and that he, as a Councilman, had to consider those requests. Jan Harris replied that Blane Creek is a PNA (Primary Nursery Area) and as such cannot be dredged per North Carolina law.

Karen Joseph stated that this project began while she was still on the Council and that the purpose was to make the water more accessible to the residents and tourists in order to make the town more attractive to tourists.

Much discussion was held on how to get the committee's progress to Council. Pete Larkin stated that he did not want to see a presentation or briefing at Council meetings. The Committee should send emails to the Council Members.

Both Committee members, Richard Hilderman and Jan Harris expressed the importance of at least one ERC Committee Member be present at meetings, especially scoping meetings, where the subject of the meeting was the 2016 Shoreline Management and Dredge Project was discussed. Karen Joseph objected to this saying that only Susan Parker could make that decision. Pete Larkin advised the committee to send an email to the Council to get Council's opinion.

Richard Hilderman reported that the Committee planned to have a Power Point Presentation in early September at an Environmental Resources Committee meeting with date to be announced.

The Committee also discussed getting the Committee's presentations on the Town Website. The Committee will work with Lisa Anglin on this issue.

Richard Hilderman asked those in attendance if they had any comments.

John Corbett said the Committee had an onerous job and supported the work that was being done.

Jerry Otteni stated that is very important for the public to be a part of this process. Said that so many times in Sunset Beach projects are a done deal before the public even knows about them or has a chance to comment.

Having covered all the Agenda items, the meeting adjourned.