

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Special Meeting Minutes  
May 24, 2013  
10:00 am**

**Members Present:** Mayor Richard Cerrato, Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita, Councilman Wilson Sherrill, Councilwoman Karen Joseph, Councilman Mike Williams, and Councilwoman Carol Scott.

**Members absent:** None

**Attorney & Staff Present:** Sandy Wood, Building Inspector; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

**Guest Present:** Karen Fussell, NC DOT Division Engineer and Representative Frank Iler

Mayor Cerrato called the Special Meeting to order.

**Bridge Fencing**

Councilwoman Joseph, who requested this meeting, advised the group that the main topic for this meeting is the fencing under the bridge, installed by NC DOT, and the possibility of its removal. The Council feels that the area is not regularly maintained which renders it unsightly; however, the Council understands the NCDOT funding restraints and has requested that the Town's Public Works Department perform the maintenance to the Council's standards. Dustin Graham has advised Council that the fence makes performing the maintenance time consuming since the mower can't cut along the fence line and it requires weeding.

Karen Fussell advised that NCDOT has granted permission for the Town to maintain the area to its standards, however, state and possibly federal regulations require that area to be fenced. Fussell offered to double check the requirement and to provide a copy of the regulation documentation to the Council. Fussell stated that if it is determined that the fence is required, the fence might be able to be moved inward to 10' from the bridge drip line. This would allow for a few additional parking spaces along the fence line. Fussell stated that if it is determined that the fence can be removed, NCDOT will still not permit parking under the bridge but would allow for landscaping, etc. An encroachment agreement including liability/maintenance clause, and a proposed site design, will be required regardless of the fence being removed or not.

**Rain Lilies**

The group discussed the recently discovered rain lilies (endangered species) located near the bird watch on Highway 179 and within the bridge fencing area. The group also discussed the no mowing/parking signs (regarding the rain lilies) recently installed by NC DOT on Highway 179. Council expressed its disappointment that DOT officials have erected signs in Sunset Beach without any discussion or warning to the Town. Fussell offered to find out if the rain lilies can be moved and the Town could establish a landscaping bed under the bridge for the lilies.

The group visited the site and discussed possible solutions. Fussell advised that NC DOT Representatives will attend a Council meeting in the near future to update the Council on the fencing and the rain lilies.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MAY 24, 2013 SPECIAL MEETING. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEPH SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CERRATO CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Town of Sunset Beach

---

Richard Cerrato, Mayor

Submitted by:

---

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk