Town of Sunset Beach

Environmental Resource Committee

Rules and Responsibilities

The Sunset Beach Environmental Resource Committee (SBERC) is organized to assist the Town of Sunset Beach ("Town") and the Town Council in identifying and adopting measures that promote the protection of natural resources and the environment. The SBERC shall work to preserve and enhance the Town's ecosystem in conjunction with the environmentally-responsible growth and development of the Town.

Specifically, the SBERC, when directed by the Town Council, may perform the following functions:

- Study and make recommendations to the Town Council regarding policies and programs related to environmental protection, management, and conservation as they relate to the land, flora, fauna, waterways, water resource management, marine resources, climate change and its impact, pollution, and solid waste management.

- Study, monitor, and report to the Town Council regarding pertinent issues, proposed legislation, and/or technological changes that could affect our local environment.

- Assist the Town Council and Town staff in meeting environmentally-related reporting requirements in Town projects, programs, and/or grant applications.

- Review and make recommendations to the Town Planning Board on environmental issues related to proposed developments, as part of the technical review committee process.

- Organize events to teach the local community about environmental conservation and preservation issues and to encourage families and individuals to lead more environmentally-conscious lives. These events could focus on topics such as litter pick-up, construction of storm gardens or other stormwater control measures, protection of marshes and dunes, and/or conserving nonrenewable resources.

In general, the SBERC is intended to operate as a research and reporting body that conducts research on topics of interest and/or concern to the Town Council and reports its findings, alternative courses of action, and recommendations regarding the same directly back to the Town Council. The SBERC and its members are not empowered to make decisions on behalf of or speak on behalf of the Town, unless specifically authorized in writing by duly passed resolution of the Town Council.

The SBERC's reports, after being presented in open meetings to the Town Council, may be posted on the Town's website for public access. These reports will be clearly identified as being a report of the SBERC and not indicative of the official position or action plan of the Town.

The SBERC shall consist of five members who are appointed by the majority affirmative vote of Town Council for a term of two years. Members shall reside in Sunset Beach, although one member may reside in the extra-territorial jurisdiction. The initial appointments that are made immediately following the adoption of this policy shall be for terms on a staggered basis: two positions for a one-year term, and three positions for a two-year term. All subsequent appointments, except those to fill an unexpired term, shall be for two years.

At the expiration of each term, an advertisement of the vacancy shall be made by the Town Clerk in accordance with the Town's advertising procedures. A current member whose term may be expiring shall be entitled to apply for a new term along with any other interested members of the public who meet the residency criteria. Vacancies other than those occurring by expiration of a term are filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

One of the members shall be chosen by a majority of the SBERC's members to serve as chairperson and presiding officer. Another member shall be chosen by a majority of the SBERC's members to serve as clerk to the SBERC and maintain the official records of the meetings and the SBERC's actions. Additionally, the Town's Planning Director shall be the Town's staff liaison to the committee and will serve in an advisory position to the SBERC. Other Town staff may be consulted by the SBERC as needed with the assistance of the Planning Director.

The SBERC shall be subject to the North Carolina Open Public Meetings Law, shall be required to keep records of its meetings and activities, and shall make an annual report to the Town Council.

Adopted the 19 day of February, 2019

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Mark Benton, Mayor Pro-Tem

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
OFFICIAL SEAL
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