



Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve
 Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
 Rules Review
 December 12, 2019 10:00 a.m.
 Kitty Hawk Town Hall

Attendance

LAC Partner Organization Members	Present
The Nature Conservancy, Aaron McCall	No
Coastal Studies Institute, John McCord	Yes
Town of Kitty Hawk, Andy Stewart	Yes
N.C. Forest Service, John Cook	Yes
Town of Kitty Hawk, Joel Johnson	No
N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission, Anna Barbosa	No
N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Misty Buchanan	No
Community Members	
Dana Thomason	Yes
Clifton Perry	Yes
Jeff Pruitt	Yes
Others Present	
Rebecca Ellin, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Program Manager	
Jason Brown, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Northern Sites Manager	
Wade Styons, Kitty Hawk Police Department	
Gary Perry, Town of Kitty Hawk Mayor	
Scott Pohlman, N.C. Natural Heritage Program	

Reserve-wide Updates

The Reserve-wide Update, which now includes a range of Reserve activities was shared with committee members prior to the meeting. The update in its entirety is included as Appendix A.

Site Updates

- The Meter Point acquisition is still in progress and has received Council of State approval.
- As part of the grant funding for Meter Point acquisition, there were funds contributed by other agencies for educational signs on coastal habitat protection. These will likely be placed at sites outside of Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve and near Kitty Hawk Bay.
- Trail planning continues with a need to better present information on the trails for visitors. Establishing trail names will help with navigation and emergency response.

- Needs for trail and sign projects have been identified by the access survey completed by UNC-Wilmington. The final report has been received by DCM. For Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve, signage improvements was the most frequent response regarding needs for improvement. Nature observation and kayaking were the most frequent responses of use at the reserve. A question on land ownership received the most frequent response of “do not know.”
- N.C. Coastal Federation has contacted the site manager regarding abandoned vessels in Kitty Hawk Bay and has applied for NOAA funding for a removal project. There are currently more than 11 vessels near or in the marsh of Baum Point Island and one on the shoreline at Currituck Banks Reserve.
- Cole Yeats (Town of Kitty Hawk Fire Department) and N.C. Forest Service staff have been working on updates to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Reserve staff will provide updated maps.

Rules Review

The committee was asked for input on draft rule language developed as part of the Legislative Periodic Rules Review and Expiration of Existing Rules process (G.S. 150B-21.3A) that began in 2016. Draft rule language presented is included as Appendix B. Committee members were provided draft language per rule section for each section of the N.C. Administrative Code related to the N.C. Coastal Reserve (NCAC 15A 70). Committee input per section:

SECTION .0100 – GENREAL PROVISIONS

15A NCAC 070.0101 – STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- No comment.

15A NCAC 070.0102 – DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THE SUBCHAPTER

- No comment.

15A NCAC 070.0103 – RESPONSIBILITIES: DUTIES OF THE COASTAL RESERVE PROGRAM

- No comment.

15A NCAC 070.0104 – STATE AND LOCAL COASTAL RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- No comment.

15A NCAC 070.0105 – RESERVE COMPONENTS

- No comment.

SECTION .0200 – MANAGEMENT: USE AND PROTECTION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL RESERVE

15A NCAC 070.0201 – MANAGEMENT PLAN

- No comment.

15A NCAC 070.0202 – RESERVE USE REQUIREMENTS

- Item (4) – Mr. Pruitt asked if this can potentially be enforced in the event of homeless encampments. This is identified by members as an issue in local parks and potentially within Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve. Garry Perry asks if this could be enforced within property owned by the Town of Kitty Hawk where it is managed by Division of Coastal Management through an existing conservation easement.
- Item (9)- Mr. Stewart commented that motor vehicles blocking Covered Bridge Road have been enforced by Town of Kitty Hawk Police Department in the past and identifies the need for an enforceable rule in place for their continued involvement and enforcement. Discussion about Covered Bridge Road occurred.

15A NCAC 070.0203 – SPECIAL ACTIVITY AUTHORIZATION

- Discussion occurred on potential exemptions and requirements for groups visiting for educational programming led by other organizations.

Roundtable Discussion

- Discussion on potential acquisitions and current process. Mr. Pruitt commented that he and relatives owns two parcels and would be interested in selling these as additions to Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve. When willing landowners express interest in selling, reserve staff will review. Jeff Pruitt will provide more information at a later date for the site manager to review.
- Gary Perry identified a need for removal or repair of the guard shack on The Woods Road. Ownership is unclear on the road and bridges due to a planned community's homeowner association never being established. Clifton Perry mentioned that town staff could assist with the process.
- Town of Kitty Hawk is looking at the potential of an access road in the eastern areas of the forest. Gary Perry asked on the status of a plan that has been mentioned before near Otila Way. This has no current funding; funds have been requested for this project. The estimated cost is \$30,000.
- Ms. Thomason has North Carolina Aquarium educational groups interested in visiting Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve. She plans to contact the site manager with more information.
- Mr. Cook can help with requests for grant funding that would be used for wildfire mitigation efforts. The deadline is January 2020.

Public Comments

- None

Action Items

- The site manager will meet with Kitty Hawk Police Department on current rules and enforcement at Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve.
- The site manager and reserve program manager will check ownership and contact State Property Office about the guard shack located on Covered Bridge Road.