

Town of Kiawah Island Dock Subcommittee Meeting Summary

March 30, 2017

10:00 AM

Lonnie Hamilton III, PSB

Kiawah Room A-309

4045 Bridge View Drive

North Charleston, SC 29405

Attendance: Gale Messerman, Brit Stenson, Amanda Mole, John Taylor, Jr., Jenny Werking, and Charles Lipuma.

The main goal of the meeting was to continue the discussion of goals and refinement considerations. The subcommittee primarily reviewed the language and the interpretation of the Key Location Ordinance. The subcommittee along with staff began redlining the current ordinance to identify areas where language could become more clear.

With one of the main purposes of the Ordinance being to prevent the uncontrolled proliferation of docks along Kiawah Island's river and frontage stream, as the Town considers build out, the subcommittee highlighted the importance of discussing existing and future key locations. Staff determined many of the approved Key Locations have constructed docks or docks in permitting stages and this would play a significant role in determining whether or not more locations would be viable based on the existing inventory and standards of the current Key Location Ordinance. The committee requested town staff to review areas where at low tide there may be no water but more ideally described as drainage areas, highlighting rightful viable areas for docks.

The subcommittee also shared in dialogue regarding the intent of floating and fixed docks. It was confirmed that language could be revamped to make the intent of these dock types more clear. Fixed docks are intended for fishing and crabbing keeping a low profile, and which have no movable parts including boatlifts to them; where floating docks are more associated with deep water access suitable for mooring small watercraft.

Also reviewed was the physical design of docks which coincided with the intent of the dock types. One significant discussion point revolved around permitting and approval procedures. The subcommittee noted inconsistencies with the approval process due to many approvals and lack of informed involved partners including real estate and contracting officials. With multiple agencies involved in the approval process the greatest concern for the subcommittee and planning staff was jurisdictional lines. For this concern and comments from an involved agency, staff has invited a representative from DHEC OCRM to join the next meeting to field questions from the subcommittee. The next meeting will focus dock maintenance, enforcement, and continued dialogue on criteria of approvals.

The next meeting date was set for Thursday April 27th 2:00 PM at Town of Kiawah Island Town Hall.