



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes
Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall
October 28, 2019, 2 pm

Attendance.

Commission Members A.B. "Trace" Cooper (chair), Jim Normile (vice-chair), Harry Archer, Larry Baldwin, Larry Corsello, Joel Fortune, Douglas Guthrie, Woody Warren, John Wootten, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members Jimmy Farrington and Ken Jones were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** - Chairman Cooper welcomed fellow Beach Commission members and the audience; and subsequently called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes – Regular Beach Commission Meeting (September 23, 2019).** – Chairman Cooper asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the September 23rd regular session minutes presented in the agenda packet. Member Archer subsequently made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, which was seconded by member Baldwin and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Room Occupancy Tax (ROT) and "Beach Fund" Update.** – Chairman Cooper introduced the topic by noting the July and August occupancy tax receipts are included in the agenda packet and after a couple of months being in negative territory, the collection for the calendar year is now in the black, which is quite impressive considering the reduced inventory associated with hurricane *Florence* is prohibiting a similar amount of visitors from staying in the area in summer 2019 compared to last year (2018). Secretary Rudolph continued by highlighting the recent monthly figures ([Slide 1](#)). Perhaps most interesting is the fact that the June 2019 collection was over -14% down compared to the June 2018 collection and was followed by the July collection that was over -12% down compared to the year prior. This tipped the calendar year collection downward to -3.6% for the year at the end of July (the occupancy tax was up by +6% through April). However, the August 2019 collection was up by +16.8%, which has flipped the Calendar Year back into positive territory and now stands at +0.9%. The secretary added the actual dollar figures associated with the aforementioned percentages are included in the agenda packet.

The impacts from hurricane *Florence* paint a complicated picture moving forward however. For one, we should expect higher receipts for September 2019 considering *Florence* impacted Bogue Banks during this same month in 2018 and there was an immediate dearth of available hotel or cottage rooms because of the widespread wind and rain damage that was the hallmark of this particular hurricane. Thereafter in the winter and early spring months, occupancy rates were uncommonly high for any of the accommodations that were not damaged during *Florence* as the construction workforce and displaced families rented whatever was available at that time. Of

course we won't experience that type of influx in the winter/early spring this year and could see the collections drop slightly – albeit these months contribute little compared to the high-volume summer tourism season extending from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The secretary concluded by mentioning the occupancy tax/beach nourishment reserve value was ~\$11.5 current to the end of August. Chairman Cooper continued by asking member Warren how rental reservations were looking thus far for 2020; to which member Warren replied --- about average but it is very early in the season and many wait much later to book reservations.

- (4) **Post-Dorian (2019) Monitoring Report: Bogue Banks Beach & Nearshore Mapping Program.** – Chairman Cooper introduced Nicole Vanderbeke from Moffatt & Nichol (M&N) to summarize the results of our post-storm survey, and the secretary beforehand mentioned our Post-Dorian drone video/movie turned out very well and with respect to the survey itself; we “gained” sand (i.e., sand moved from depth up the beach profile) during this Onslow Embayment west-to-east “windshield wiper” type of hurricane that had a similar forward-speed, track, and intensity as *Matthew* in 2016. As mentioned in the attached memorandum and as Ms. Vanderbeke will discuss, the overall trend of sand moving up the profile wasn't as consistent as *Matthew* on a transect-by-transect basis, but overall the sand gain in terms of volume was similar and the shoreline was advanced considerably seaward as a result of *Dorian*. Ms. Vanderbeke proceeded to starting the presentation ([Slides 2 – 39](#)), which also detailed some of the profiles at Beaufort and Bogue Inlets. Besides some shoaling at the base of Beaufort Inlet Channel (Morehead City Harbor, the inlet geometries remained basically the same. This predicated a question from member Wootten concerning the rate of movement of Bogue Inlet over time, which the secretary replied that new updates have been provided to our GIS website at <http://www.protectthebeachmaps.com/> and to that effect, most of the changes coincidentally were focused on Bogue Inlet. The secretary subsequently went to the website for a demonstration.
- (5) **Public Comment.** – None.
- (6) **Other Business.** – Secretary Rudolph reviewed several of the waterway projects the Shore Protection Office has been working on (permitting and funding wise) – [slides 40 - 59](#). The goal of projects such as Atlantic Harbor, Old Ferry Channel, East Taylors Creek, and Wainwright Slough is to secure permit for each effort, and the County Board of Commissioners can subsequently prioritize which projects can be constructed. All of these projects are being partially funded by the State's Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund (1:2 County to State match).
- (7) **December 2019 Meeting Date (December 2, 2019 or TBD).** – It was agreed upon the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on December 2nd at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall or another date depending on the holiday schedule and the breadth of subjects that need to be discussed between now and then.
- (8) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Cooper asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.