### TO KURE OF THE CAROLINA

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The Town Attorney was present and there was a quorum of Council members present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT Mayor Craig Bloszinsky MPT Allen Oliver Commissioner John Ellen Commissioner David Heglar Commissioner Dennis Panicali COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

### STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief – Mike Bowden
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy
Recreation Director – Nikki Keely
Building Inspector – John Batson
Code Enforcement Officer – Bethany White
Town Clerk – Mandy Sanders
Deputy Town Clerk – Beth Chase
Public Works Director – Jimmy Mesimer
Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver

Mayor Bloszinsky called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner Ellen gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Approve the Town Holiday Schedule for 2023 2023 Holiday Schedule
- 2. Approve the Stormwater Permit Transfer Application
- 3. Approve Resolution R22-13 for the 2021 Local Water Supply Plan
- 4. Approve closing K Avenue east of Fort Fisher Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenue to vehicle traffic from the early morning hours through 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2023 and approve for a 5K race to be held on Kure Beach streets in conjunction with the event and allow the Police Department to close down any additional streets along the race route deemed necessary to ensure participant safety during the race. Approve up to 3 food trucks and other vendors to operate within the closed portion of Atlantic Avenue during the event hours and Waived the Special Event fees associated with this event due to the Non-Profit status of Special Olympics New Hanover County
- 5. Minutes:
  - November 21, 2022 Regular
  - November 21, 2022 Legislative Hearing

### OF KURE OF PORT

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

- November 21, 2022 Legislative Hearing
- November 21, 2022 Legislative Hearing

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to remove the approval of the FY 22-23 Revised Fee Schedule to include a \$150 fee for meter box replacement and the approval of the FDB Contract from the agenda and approve the Consent agenda as presented SECOND- Commissioner Ellen VOTE- Unanimous

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to add approval of the FY 22-23 Revised Fee Schedule to include a \$150 fee for meter box replacement to the agenda under New Business and approve the agenda as amended SECOND- Commissioner Panicali VOTE- Unanimous

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Wick Wickliffe resident at 417 N 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Max Frye resident at 313 Settlers Lane read a letter and provided photos hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Roy Erwin resident at Settlers Lane read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Barbara Erwin resident at Settlers Lane read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Judy Larrick resident at Settlers Lane read a letter hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Town Clerk Mandy Sanders read letters submitted by residents hereby incorporated into the minutes.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Kenneth Halanych, UNCW Center of Marine Science

Kenneth Halanych with UNCW Center of Marine Science gave a presentation hereby incorporated into the minutes.



### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

2. Tony McEwen, Carolinas Director, American Flood Coalition

Tony McEwen with the American Flood Coalition gave a presentation hereby incorporated into the minutes.

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to approve Resolution R22-14 to become a member of the American Flood Coalition SECOND- Commissioner Heglar VOTE- Unanimous

### DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### Marketing Committee

• Revised Marketing Committee Mission Statement

### Chairman Dirks stated:

- The Advisory Committee currently has 7 members that are very passionate and have a lot of ideas on the Marketing of Kure Beach
- The KB Marketing Committee is working on defining what KB products should be promoted
- The Committee will be working on this by focusing in 2023 on the history, arts, outdoor and exercise, lodging, and events for Kure Beach
- The Committee will bring further information to Town Council in the future
- He is requesting approval to expand the marketing mission statement to include to serve in an advisory capacity for the Town of Kure Beach as included in the agenda packet

Town Clerk Sanders commented the Committee does have to have a regularly scheduled meeting so need to revise it to say the regularly scheduled meeting in the mission statement.

Chairman Dirks commented that is the current statement, but he will get that section revised.

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to approve the revised Marketing Mission Statement for the Marketing Committee SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

**VOTE-** Unanimous



### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

### DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Building Inspections Department

Building Inspector Batson commented he received new CAMA public beach access signs that will be installed soon. The Proposed Text Amendments to Chapter 11 and Chapter 15 are ones he requested to make his job more streamline. He can answer any questions Town Council has regarding the proposed amendments.

Town Attorney Eldridge commented Town Council needs to only set the Legislative Hearing tonight for the amendments.

MPT Oliver commented he does not have any issues, but he would like to remove section 2 the "Administrative Title Changes" until the job classification study is completed. He would like the COG to have the opportunity to show a job description and review the information.

Mayor Bloszinsky commented he agrees to wait till all the information is received.

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to remove section 2 "Administrative Title Changes" from the proposed text amendments

SECOND- Commissioner Heglar

**VOTE-** Unanimous

MOTION- Commissioner made a motion to Schedule a Legislative Hearing for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

**VOTE- Unanimous** 

### 2. Public Works Department

Discussion of Civil Solutions Proposal for Rehabilitate located at S. 4th Ave

### Public Works Director Mesimer stated:

- Seeking approval on the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sewer Project
- It was camered two years ago during COVID which slowed this down, the proposal is included in the agenda packet for Town Councils approval
- Civil Solutions will line the 8-inch sewer line from E Avenue to M Avenue
- Also requesting approval, for the Clark Group proposal for the Environmental Study to meet the MOTSU Lagoon Lease requirements



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Town Attorney Eldridge commented he has reviewed the Civil Solutions agreement. He will need to draft a Resolution exempting the Town from the Mini-Brooks Act for Engineering Services.

MOTION- Commissioner Oliver made a motion to approve Civil Solutions Proposal for Rehabilitate located at S. 4th Ave SECOND- Commissioner Ellen VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to approve the Civil Solutions Proposal for Rehabilitate located at S. 4th Ave SECOND- Commissioner Ellen VOTE- Unanimous

 Proposal of the Clark Group Environmental Baseline Survey for the MOTSU Lease Requirements

Town Attorney Eldridge commented he will need to review the proposal and he will also need to draft a resolution exempting the Town from the Mini-Brooks Act for these engineering or survey services.

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to exempt the Clark Group by Resolution that the Town Attorney will draft for the Clark Group Environmental Baseline Study required by MOTSU for the Lagoon Lease SECOND- MPT Oliver VOTE- Unanimous

### 3. Recreation Department:

Film Permit Application - Shovel Buddies, LLC

Recreation Director Keely stated she is seeking approval tonight for a film permit from Shovel Buddies, LLC. for Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 6:00 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. Requesting for pedestrian traffic control on the beach near the pier and 12 parking spaces in the downtown area on Atlantic Avenue.

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to approve Film Permit Application for Shovel Buddies, LLC as presented.

SECOND- Commissioner Panicali

VOTE- Unanimous

## WURE OF PORT

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

### DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

1. Continued Discussion of the Emergency Operations Plan

Commissioner Heglar commented the plan is broken into the base plan and the annexes. The department heads have reviewed and comments from citizens. He is requesting approval as presented for the base plan.

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to approve the Emergency Operations Base Plan as presented SECOND- Commissioner Ellen VOTE- Unanimous

### DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

1. Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Grant

MPT Oliver stated he was made aware of a grant to do feasibility studies for greenways, trails, and sidewalks. The Town qualifies for the grant and because it goes through NCDOT portal the Town has limited staff who has access. After the initial webinar and discussion, he learned the State of NC is studying from the current Town limits to Fort Fisher area to connect all the way to the ferry. This will be studied in a separate grant the State is doing. The grant will be a zero cost to the Town and looking for formal approval from Town Council to move forward.

Mayor Bloszinsky asked does this provide a variety of solutions?

MPT Oliver commented yes it would include a variety. This would be a more in depth and detailed study for the greenway. It will include public meetings to receive concerns. The Town will receive a cost estimate.

Commissioner Ellen commented would there be any hope that this would include Dow road? If MOTSU does not want bicycles on Dow road then they should put up signs to avoid bicyclists using the bicycle lane. He does not support the greenway going down the back of the houses so if that is all the grant is going to look at, he is not in favor.

MPT Oliver stated he is not sure, as we have not started the study, but could always put it on the table and then it would be up to MOTSU. Anything is currently on the table and the grant will be a more in-depth study of the greenway and then will go to MOTSU for permission.

Commissioner Heglar commented he thinks that the study should be tailored to what the Town wants. He has been on Town Council multiple times and voted against the bike path behind Settlers Lane at least 3 times. If the Town directed the feasibility study to study the west side of



### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

Dow Rd where it makes sense, then he would be supportive if the grant is guided by Town Council. In the application state to connect the two greenways on the west side of Dow Rd and the state will approve it or not.

Commissioner Panicali commented he feels the same way. It will be extraordinary expensive to put the greenway behind the houses on Settlers Lane. So, if the Town has all the information and reasons why it does not make sense to put the greenway there. So, he thinks the feasibility study should be inclusive but needs to include Dow Road.

Mayor Bloszinsky commented the Town does not have approval currently to do it behind Settlers Lane currently. He would like citizens to understand Council has heard them and hope they have heard Councils feelings on this topic tonight. The Town has a Bike/Ped Master plan that shows 4 different paths. The 5<sup>th</sup> plan as mentioned by resident Judy Larrick and Commissioner Heglar is the west side of Dow Road.

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to approve doing the Feasibility Grant application to investigate the potential greenways through Kure Beach to include Dow Road, Settlers Lane, and Existing Surface Streets

SECOND- Commissioner Heglar

VOTE- 4-1 VOTE, FOR- Mayor Bloszinsky, MPT Oliver, Commissioner Heglar, Commissioner Panicali, Against – Commissioner Ellen

2. Reschedule January 16, 2023 Council Meeting due to Martin Luther King Holiday

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to reschedule the Monday, January 16, 2022 Council meeting to Wednesday, January 18, 2022 due to the Martin Luther King Holiday SECOND- Commissioner Ellen

**VOTE- Unanimous** 

3. Schedule date and time for 2023 Annual Council Retreat

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting on February 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for the 2023 Annual Council Retreat SECOND- Commissioner Ellen VOTE- Unanimous

4. Schedule a date and time for the Special Meeting for the Sandman Park

## OF KURE OF POR

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to schedule on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. a Special Meeting for the Sandman Park Public Input SECOND- Commissioner Heglar VOTE- Unanimous

5. Approve the FY 22-23 Revised Fee Schedule to include a \$150 fee for meter box replacement

Commissioner Heglar stated this is a request to add to the fee schedule is the updated meter boxes replacement.

MOTION- Commissioner Heglar made a motion to approve the FY 22-23 Revised Fee Schedule to include a \$150 fee for meter box replacement SECOND- MPT Oliver VOTE- Unanimous

**MAYOR UPDATES** 

COMMISSIONER ITEMS CLOSED SESSION

MOTION- MPT Oliver made a motion to go into Closed Session per (GS 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney Client Privilege at 8:23 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Heglar

**VOTE- Unanimous** 

MOTION-MPT Oliver made a motion to return to open session

SECOND- Commissioner Panicali

**VOTE- Unanimous** 

MOTION- Commissioner Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Heglar

**VOTE- Unanimous** 

ATTEST: Mandy Sanders, Town Clerk

Craig Bloszinsky, Mayor



### **REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. A recording of the meeting is available on the town's website under government>agendas&minutes

## SIGN IN SHEET TO ADDRESS KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING TYPE & DATE December

19 2022

TOPIC OF CONCERN	TOULKISAIL	Greenway &	(SREEN WAY	Greenway	"(Green "Den					
ADDRESS	417 N. 4th ANE	313 Lettlers Lans	301 SETTLER	301 Settlers home	645 SETTLEN LN					
NAME	WICK WICKNIFFS	Max Frye	Roy ERWIN	Barbara Grwm	TANDY LARRICH					

A recent report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association found that pickleball—the "fastest-growing sport in America"—has attracted 4.8 million players nationwide (a 40% increase since 2020)¹.

All you have to do is Google pickleball and you'll see the number of hits showing the rise in players.<sup>2</sup> We will assume that all of this data is correct. Locally, on any given day there are up to 30 people waiting to play in Kure Beach on 3-5 outdoor courts. At the same time, there are up to 20 people waiting to play in Carolina Beach on 4 outdoor courts.

In Florida, a company is proceeding with building 15 indoor pickleball facilities, each with about 16 courts, investing \$180 million.<sup>3</sup>

Wilmington recently converted Arrowhead tennis courts to permanent pickleball courts. "Pickleball was the number one request among the community. The proposal notes Wilmington has the capacity to accommodate more courts. The city currently has 10 shared tennis-pickleball courts and six designed exclusively for pickleball."

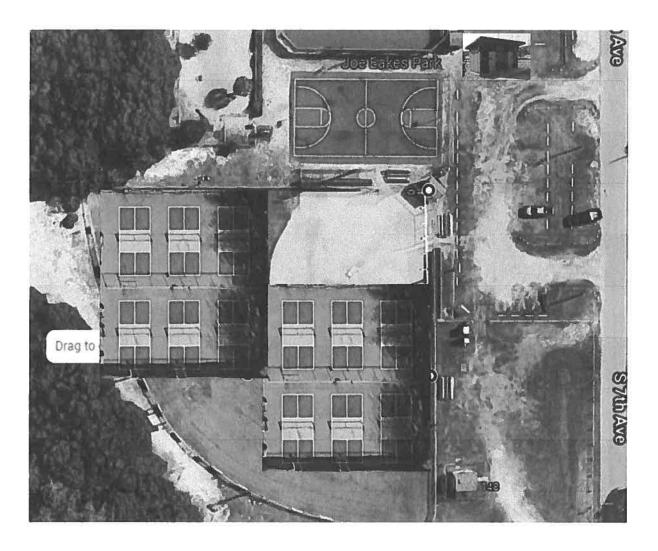
One of the biggest barriers to establishing new courts is the high cost of land. But we have the land – an unused baseball field. Below is a crude rendition of what could be.

What are the potential benefits of such a facility? The health benefits of regular exercise for all segments of the population is quite obvious — and this game is played by all ages and could be expanded by teaching it in public schools. Other benefits would be the ability to hold tournaments attracting people from all over the country (I have friends who played in the Turks & Caicos, Thailand and across the US). This would obviously increase the Town's revenue through fees, additional sleep nights during the off-season, revenue by restaurants and other businesses.

As in "The Field of Dreams" movie: Build it and they will come! If we do not build it, someone else will and reap the monetary benefit.

Respectively, Wick Wickliffe, 417 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.





- 1 <a href="https://finance.yahoo.com/news/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-u-10000366.html">https://finance.yahoo.com/news/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-u-10000366.html</a>#:~:text=Fortune-
  - "Pickleball%20is%20the%20fastest%2Dgrowing%20sport%20in%20the%20U.S.%2C%20and,increasingly%20popular%20way%20to%20network&text=A%20recent%20report%20from%20the,40%25%20increase%20since%202020).
- 2 <a href="https://finance.yahoo.com/news/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-u-110000366.html#:~:text=Fortune-">https://finance.yahoo.com/news/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-u-110000366.html#:~:text=Fortune-</a>
  - ,<u>Pickleball%20is%20the%20fastest%2Dgrowing%20sport%20in%20the%20U.S.%2C%20and,increasingly%20popular%20way%20to%20network&text=A%20recent%20report%20from%20the,40%25%20increase%20since%202020</u>).
- 3 <a href="https://www.villages-news.com/2022/10/25/major-indoor-pickleball-complex-to-be-built-within-the-villages/">https://www.villages-news.com/2022/10/25/major-indoor-pickleball-complex-to-be-built-within-the-villages/</a>
- 4 <a href="https://portcitydaily.com/local-news/2022/12/18/survey-says-2m-more-77-acres-needed-to-elevate-city-parks-and-rec/">https://portcitydaily.com/local-news/2022/12/18/survey-says-2m-more-77-acres-needed-to-elevate-city-parks-and-rec/</a>

### December 19, 2022

TO: Kure Beach Town Council

FROM:

Max R. Frve

313 Settlers Lane

Kure Beach, NC

RE:

**Drainage Project** In fire lane on Sunny Point property

behind homes on Settlers Lane

**Proposed Greenway** in same fire lane

I wish to express my concerns regarding the proposed drainage and Greenway projects on Federal property behind my house on Setters Lane.

I have attached two photos of the flooded area behind my home, taken on February 8, 2021. The water is deep enough to float a canoe and extends well onto the two properties adjacent to mine.

If the drainage project will not resolve this flooding issue the proposed Greenway path would be rendered unusable following even a modest rainfall.

I am in opposition to the construction of the Greenway for the following reasons:

I chose to build my home at its current location where I could enjoy unrestricted views of Mother Nature, including the birds, the deer, and an occasional coyote. In my elder years I find that the peaceful serenity and sounds of nature are positive factors affecting quality of life, which will be diminished by activity on the Greenway.

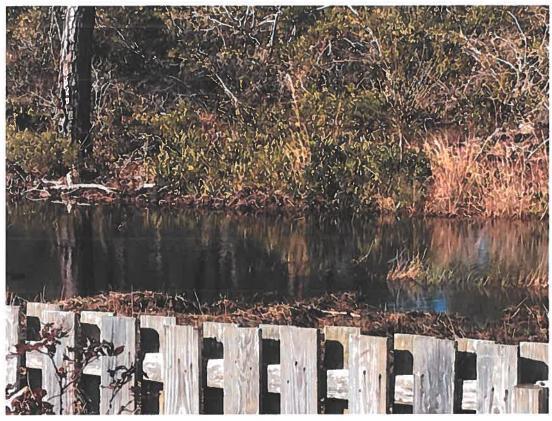
On behalf of those of us who chose this location for the reasons I've expressed, I strongly request that Council rejects the Greenway proposal.

Respectfully yours,

Mart R. Frye

Max R. Frye

Max Frye 313 Setters Lane, Kure Beach, NC 2/8/2021





### Thank you for your time

I see in the agenda Mr. Oliver wants town council to bless his attendance at a stakeholders meeting regarding the Great State trails plan. We would like to know who is requesting his attendance? Is it the residents of Kure Beach, the Great Trails State Plan, the bike ped committee or wmpo? I am sure if you ask the residents of the 62 homes who live along the fire lane in Kure Beach they wouldn't want his attendance. Perhaps the folks who live on Davis road would be opposed also. I hope you remember who you represent. This needs to stop. The focus should be on the quality of life for all the residents.

When the bike ped committee presented their master plan at the community center several of my neighbors and I were advising the chair of that committee, Mo Linquist, about our concerns regarding privacy, safety, security and impact on nature if the greenway was extended behind our homes. she told us she didn't care......that's right she didn't care. Well, we care. I hope you care. We found talking to this committee falls on deaf ears. Is this the attitude you want the chair of a committee to display in a public input session? I hope not. It's quite obvious they don't care about our concerns. This group has caused so much discontent in Kure Beach in the past few months. First it was the boardwalk fiasco and now this. I feel this is a good time to appoint another chair to this committee. One that will listen and address the concerns of the residents and not outside interests. A lot of time and money could be saved.

We want our voices heard and that's why we come to you. The greenway extension was voted down unanimously by the last town council for various reasons. I believe the fire and police departments had valid concerns also. That hasn't changed. They only 2 things that has changed is the increased costs to the town .....and town council members. It wasn't feasible then and certainly isn't now.

Why is this being rehashed again. If you vote to allow this study to continue, I hope you can address our concerns with us tonight. It is very nerve-wracking to have this brought up over and over again. I don't understand why anyone would want to jeopardize our way of life for something that isn't need.

Thank you

Thank you for taking time to listen to me.

Here we go again. The bike/ped committee wants to do a feasibility study on ramming this Greenway behind Settlers Lane. Town council unanimously voted this project down before. Why are they allowed to continue to show this route on their master plan? This needs to stop. You do not know how upsetting this is to the residents that will be affected. Nothing has changed since then except for town council and bike/ped. committee members. We still have the same concerns as before. Cost, security, wetlands, fire hazards, privacy and impact on nature are still issues that exist. Has any of this changed? No.... except for building costs.

I am asking town council to deny the bike/ped committee's request to do a feasibility study. It wasn't feasible then and it's not feasible now. If you vote to allow this study, I hope you can explain what has changed and explain to the residents of Settlers Lane why you are in favor in destroying our security, privacy and safety. We are sick and tired of worrying about this every other year. You need to stop this nonsense now! If our streets aren't safe to ride or walk, please show us the data. I ride my bike all over Kure and Carolina Beach and the only issues I have are stones and sand in the bike lanes along Ft. Fisher Blvd., Lake Park Drive and Carolina Beach north. The Greenway in Carolina Beach doesn't impact the number of homes as it would in Kure Beach. Please stop this insanity for once and for all.

To: Kure Beach Town Council

Re: KB "Greenway" Feasibility Study

Date: December 19, 2022

Here we go again! Discussing the so-called "greenway" bike path in the fire lane behind homes on Settlers Lane after prior failed efforts in 2004, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2020. Today Mr. Heglar is the only Councilman now who has been involved in all those discussions including Council's unanimous No vote on this path in 2004. The KB Police and Fire Departments also were against this bike path. Today the Bike/Ped Committee is proposing a feasibility study on this continuing saga. But I refer you to Former Councilman Joseph Whitley's public letter in 2020 detailing all the reasons why the fire lane is NOT a feasible location: environmental, wet lands, wildlife displacement, Town drainage plans, old Dow buried saline pipes and enormous cost. Plus many residents loss of privacy, access to homes, crime potential, increased fire risk, etc. All reasons still true today! Plus I remind you also that CB, in fact, moved the location of their greenway from behind Carolina Sands homes further back to around the pond instead due to resident's concerns.

But in fact, today our Settlers Lane homes are even more vulnerable due to MOTSU's clearing last year behind our homes East of fire lane, for the first time EVER, of most of the trees/vegetation because of the Town's concern for fire risks. Today there is no vegetation buffer at all between many yards and the fire lane. And shouldn't the Town's concern for fire risk be at odds with a fenced bike path in the fire lane which negates the purpose??? How about Fire Department's ability to function within a fenced area? (An aside, but I believe this massive MOTSU clearing and habitat loss also was a major contributing factor to the current rat infestations around many homes now, including mine!)

I'm asking, pleading, begging the Council to NOT AGREE to a feasibility study in the fire lane but instead to authorize a feasibility study for a SEPARATE, OFF-ROAD path along Dow Rd right of way. The Committee considers the fire lane the only option due to MOTSU blast zone, but ALL MOTSU land, including the fire lane is considered blast zone! A separated off-road path along Dow Route has always been our resident's best, cheapest option which connects to CB/KB parks, shopping, has least environmental and wildlife impact. And doesn't impact anyone's home! All of Wilmington's bike paths have been added as off-road lanes beside major streets/highways. Kure Beach should do the same!

Residents along Settlers purchased our home backing to MOTSU land with the understanding and assurance that the Government land would /could not be developed. These attempts to put a public-accessed path behind our properties is a violation of that covenant. Many people refer to the residents in KB Village, Keys, Beach Walk who oppose this bike path as NIMBY "Not in My Back Yard." But I say instead NINBY, "Not in NOone's Back Yard!" Many say, "Oh, I would love to have it". But if you're completely honest, I highly doubt the majority would approve. Just suppose for a moment that I ask each of you on Council, Committee members, and perhaps residents of say, Sea Watch, to give permission/access to your back yards for a walking group tour of homes and gardens in KB?? How many of you would agree and allow strangers walking around your back yards anytime day or night? Ridiculous, scary you say? Well, that's how we all feel.

It's time to put an end to this 20-year on-going saga once and for all! It's time to CARE about the concerns of residents most affected by this invasion of privacy.

JUDY LARRICK 645 SETTLORS LN

Gazette, February 12th, 2020

## he Island Gazette

E ALL LIVE HERE SO WE CARE

### Established 1978 ABOUT OUR ISLAND"

nnet Lane Suite F - P.O. Box 183, Carolina Beach, N. C. 28428 (910) 458-8156

# vn Meetings Schedule

ng on the first Beach Planning ir regular monthng Commission

the Council meeting room at Town Hall the second Carolina Beach Town Thursday of each month.

to extend the Greenway south into Kure Beach would absolutely exceed the cost of the Carolina Beach project by millions of dollars. Over he last decade federal and state grant funds have been available to cities and towns to create bike friendly paths in Towns that are willing to apply for those grants. While structed in Wilmington along busy roads serve to facilitate paths such as the ones con-Recently Kure Beach Commissioner Joseph Whitley issued a statement to citizens in regards to questions about extending the Island Greenway in Carolina Beach of his points. Many residents You can read his stateposed to the Island Greencluding security, long-term Whitley is correct in all in Carolina Beach were opway for various reasons inment below on this page.

south into Kure Beach.

safe bike and pedestrian south into Kure Beach less than kind motives. Ye Olde Public Forum | DEADLINE TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR IS MONDAY MORNING Editorial: Greenway In Kure Beach A Bad Idea travel separated from high Towns like Carolina Beach and Kure Beach, there are numerous streets parallel to a limited number of busy thoroughfares that provide safe areas of travel compared to high volume traffic areas. And when required, pedestrivolume thoroughfares, costs and other issues. And

It would also create an issue of security concern. Build a would be a waste of money. multi-use path behind nube cause for homeowner's concern about people lurkmerous homes and it will ing behind their homes with

Perhaps erecting signs to create a virtual extension on existing roads is the best, most secure and less expen-

ans and bicyclists can cross

at stop lights and crosswalks. Extending the Island Greenway in Carolina Beach

### Commissioner Addresses Questions Of Extending Island Greenway

Managing Editor

KURE BEACH - The Town of Carolina Beach completed a new multi-use bike and pedestrian path in 2019. The 1.2 mile paved 10' multiuse path borders residential neighborhoods such as Carolina Sands and land owned by the U.S. Army's Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point (MOTSU) from Mike Chappel Park on Dow Road south to Alabama Avenue.

According to Kure Beach Town Commissioner Joseph Whitley, some residents recently raised the question of extending that path south into Kure Beach. The issue has come up a couple of times over the past ten years, and many residents and leaders have resisted the idea of extending any type of multi-use path behind homes in Kure Beach.

Last week Whitley published a statement on the Town's website. He explained, "There has been some discussion of late about extending the Carolina Beach Greenway through Kure Beach to the Ferry Landing. I wanted address the topic since this question was also asked the evening of our Forum prior to the election. First, let's take a look at the Carolina Beach portion of the Greenway. They received grants for their section, 1.2 miles, but still the Town spent approximately \$350k from the total just over one million dollars. For our section we would be looking at just over three miles. So even if at this point we could receive those same grants, our total would be just over one million dollars."

Whitley explained, "There By WILLARD KILLOUGH III are several obstacles for the Greenway being extended through Kure Beach also. I will list these with the challenge: Where to build it? Town property or MOTSU? We don't have a clear line to build on and I strongly feel MOTSU would not allow on their property at this point. Building over Dow Remains. Those remains are still buried across the island. You can see them in the Ocean, before the curve on Dow and on MOT-SU property. Their presence could lead to environmental impact study."

> He explained, "Building behind the homes on Settler's Lane. The forty-six home owners have valid concerns with people biking, walking or jogging 25 feet from their decks or patios. This would be a huge hurdle to overcome to start moving forward even a tiny bit. Wetlands on the south side of Town. If the path goes through MOTSU property south of K Ave., there would be a tremendous effort for approval from the State. To even access the area to build would be destructive. needing to cut trees or fill in, unless it was a raised structure, leading to higher costs for building and eventual maintenance."

He explained, "Fort Fisher AIr Force Base. Permission to build across their property will be difficult to obtain, adding further layers of approval with subsequent delays. Historic Fort Fisher. With their new building planned and the already delicate nature of their Site, approval again would be time-consuming and need State backing. Extend beyond Historic Fort Fisher to Ferry Landing: Again, looking at

crossing substantial wetlands with State approval required for environmental reasons."

Whitley explained, "The extension of the Greenway is a layered, difficult topic with several players involved, the Town, State, citizens of Kure Beach and our neighbors across the river. There is not any easy answer. Council is not opposed to the extension. However, with some lessons learned from Florence, we are currently focusing on improving drainage throughout Town to better protect properties of the citizens. That will be our focus going forward, working closely with MOT-SU on clearing our 3.2 miles of ditches, a drainage line down the Fire Lane on Settler's Lane, and other projects to improve to the greater good for the whole Town. Any questions or concerns, please reach out to your Council."

Citizens View from 2014:

In 2014, the issue came up before the Town Council, resident Judy Larrick wrote a letter to the editor stating:

As a resident of Kure Beach, I sympathize with Carolina Beach residents who are protesting a bike path in isolated areas of the MOTSU (Sunny Point) land behind their homes.

This is exactly the same situation that occurred in Kure Beach in 2008 when the "Greenway" was proposed by the Wilmington-Metropolitan Planning Org. (WMPO) to travel through Sunny Point land behind homes in KB. The Kure Beach Council sided with the residents and rejected that plan because of safety, fire and crime concerns as well as resident's privacy issues.

Also at that time, the fed-

eral government denied the proposed path through Ft. Fisher Air Force Recreation Area, and the State denied the path to run through State land south of the island.

Furthermore, Kure Beach officials objected also to the later WMPO proposal that the path would run from Alabama Ave down FT. Fisher Blvd. through the Town of Kure Beach.

Residents advocated for an off-road bike lane along right-of-way on Dow Road. If WMPO had adopted that idea into their Plan, it might now be completed along with the recent upgrades to Dow Road.

In the WMPO Greenway Plan in June, 2012, they state the project vision "As vegetated buffers, greenways also protect natural habitats, improve water quality and reduce the impacts of flooding in floodplain areas." This plan for Carolina Beach does none of that. In fact, it would destroy hundreds of trees and increase storm water run-off with 10-ft (overkill?) of asphalt in what is now a pristine natural habitat and maritime forest. And the addition of a costly required "prison" fence should have killed this project entirely. (Does anyone believe the Army will EVER have enough funds to install their own fence on this land in our lifetime?) Surely that money would be better spent on a bike path, off-road, in the right-of-way of an existing road, such as Dow Rd, Ocean Blvd, or Cape Fear Blvd, and in open view for safety. The residents have good reasons to be concerned about this path.

From page 7-A

den from public view and ing an area completely hidalso be concerned about usto live with that behind their as illegal fireworks, skateportunities for crime as well cially at night, creating opbelieve anyone would want boarding, noise, etc. I don't misuse of this area, espe-Imagine the potential for Residents should

needed. Do you want your kids there alone? The Sunny Point land available help if

al of BOTH KURE BEACH of their land without approvalso remember in 2008 that AND CAROLINA BEACH. and should be protected. I use, development and man's MOTSU would not allow use Pleasure Island residents destruction is a gift for ALL now entirely off-limits from and pristine maritime foresi Of course, Command-

changed hands since 2008, other areas as well. courage unauthorized use in and the potential that openpresent resident's opposition cially in view of the past and ers at Sunny Point have ing one section would enthis use for their land, espewould review and reconsider but I would hope they now

the best interest of the Town, will agree with their residents that this path is not in lina Beach Town Council I also hope that the Caro-

the funds required. residents or the best use of

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flawed from the beginning and it is time to put it to a I believe the WMPO's Island FINAL rest. to have to fight this again? there? Is Kure Beach going with nowhere to go from which would end at Alabama suspicious of WMPO's fu-Greenway Plan has been ture goals after this CB path

Judy F. Larrick, Kure Beach, NC



910-458-7050 carolinabeachfurnitur

December 16, 2022

To: Kure Beach Town Mayor Craig Bloszinsky

Council Persons: David Heglar, Dennis Panicalil, Allen Oliver, John Ellen

Re: Potential feasibility Study for a Greenway Study

I Do Care.

This subject was discussed in depth several years ago as you know. At that time a completely separated bike path running along Dow Rd was highly recommended. It would be similar to the path along Old Dow Rd and the State Park. I think it continues to be the best option for Kure Beach. Any future study should certainly consider that option along with any others.

Here are a few of my continuing concerns:

- 1. Fighting a fire from the East side of the proposed fence is scary. Would an additional accessible fire lane be required on the West side of this fence?
- 2. Continued removal of vegetation and displacement of wildlife. More pavement and runoff.
- 3. The path along the proposed Greenway would be long, with limited ingress, egress, (for both people and wildlife) unlit, and unmonitored 24/7.
- 4. Privacy and Safety for all. Access to properties. My back porch, where I spend many hours with my animals, is approximately 70 open feet from the center of the current fire lane. I will be uncomfortable leaving my property for any extended time.
- 5. Litter and Pollution including noise from users and dogs with resident dogs along the way that bark at anything that moves near their home.

I have owned property on the West side of Settlers since 2001. It was purchased at a higher price specifically for privacy, aesthetics of woodlands and its inhabitant's

No Greenway in anyone's backyard.

I Do Care,

**Debbie Price** 

773 Settlers La.

Kure Beach, NC 28449

### **Mandy Sanders**

From:

Rob Johnson <rojohnso09@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Monday, December 19, 2022 12:03 PM

To:

Mandy Sanders

Cc:

Liz Johnson

Subject:

Fwd: Bike trail

**Attachments:** 

Dear Mandy Sanders KBTC.docx

Good afternoon, M. Sanders,

Please see the attached letter for tonight's meeting. I apologize I will not be able to attend.

Rob and Liz Johnson 741 Settlers Lane 304.476.8755 Rojohnso09@yahoo.com Rjccjohnson@gmail.com

**Rob Johnson**, IT Specialist (Applications Software)

AJI-2120 - Technology Support & Delivery Team

FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, Bldg23, 2Fl

Oklahoma City, OK 73169

Robert.P.Johnson@FAA.gov

(304) 476-8755 (mobile)

### Dear Kure Beach Town Council,

My wife and I are new residents and homeowners in the Town of Kure Beach, and long-time appreciators of all that Kure Beach uniquely offers. We live at 741 Settlers Lane, and are opposed to the building of a bike path / walking trail behind our property. Quoting Ayn Rand, "We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion: the stage where the government is free to do anything it pleases, while the citizens may act only by permission; which is the stage of the darkest periods of human history, the stage of rule by brute force."

My father-in-law, John R. Spencer, Jr. built 741 Settlers Lane house in 1993-1994. He and his wife were one of the founding homeowners on this part of the island, they loved Kure Beach, inviting us to visit as often as we could, and grow to love the beauty in nature by wood or by ocean. He and his wife, Ardeth, paid a premium for the property that we just purchased that is and always has been located next to federally protected land. While it is admittedly furthest from the beach, the value is greatest (aside from beachfront) in Kure Beach Village. There are 62 other homes built along the Sunny Point Federal property that are provided the same privacy and closeness to the beach and has been protected by the Federal government. An appeal to change anything that is currently in place puts a new public path in view behind these homes eliminating all of their long-appreciated unique qualities. This proposed project would completely change the descriptions of all 62 properties in Kure Beach, significantly devaluing them, and lacking any kind of homeowner's agreement, approval, or compensation for such destruction. The last thing this beautifully preserved, wooded area of the Island needs is another strip of asphalt fenced in with chain-link fencing.

An isolated biking/walking trail introduces additional risks that our children and families should not have to be subjected to. Young children are vulnerable and we shouldn't wait until something happens due to our lack of diligence in protecting them. A separate trail moving runners, joggers, walkers and bicyclers to an isolated place, only semi-public common space where it would not be adequately policed and monitored by our public servants is irresponsible. K-Avenue is a heavily traveled road that presents multiple vehicles moving at much faster speeds, just beginning to reduce to slower and slower speeds, not necessarily anticipating pedestrians and bicycles dumping out into the street. Trail traffic emptying out into K Avenue at Dow Road introduces numerous critical decision points where unsafe driving practices conflict with the residential street activity that is much safer away from highway traffic. Introducing public safety hazards does not protect children. Isolating children from public residential street areas does not protect them. The connector between Spot and Settlers, protects trail pedestrians because that connecting point dumps out at a road that has a long maintained LOW speed limit not 55>45>35 in a short span.

No one should feel uncomfortable walking alone on any point of a trail due to the lack of protection, police surveillance, and other people. Children are more at risk due to the isolation from public roads and sidewalks. Additional police protection is needed to patrol and monitor the space to assure public safety, and even then – they can't be everywhere. Other parts of the town will suffer.

December 19, 2022

TO: Town Council of Kure Beach

FROM: Lisa Leppo, 309 Settlers LN

SUBJECT: Extension of Greenway

From its inception, the bike/ped committee has maintained the myopic goal of its founder and chair, Mo Linquist; to establish an extension of the Carolina Beach Greenway through the town of Kure Beach. Specifically, through MOTSU property behind Settlers Lane and thus through the firebreak. Also since its inception, the committee has admittedly ignored/dismissed any opposing views. For example, at a meeting at the Community Center, myself and at least 7 of my neighbors were told by Mo that she did not care what we wanted. She stated she only cared about the children. When we attempted to discuss it further with her, she turned her back and walked away.

I don't think anyone would argue against the safety of children. However, I think it is unconscionable that the chair of a civic-minded committee flat out states she does not care what others think and refuses to entertain any opinion rather than her own. Is this attitude condoned by the town council?

Many of us on Settlers Lane have the same concerns. The requirement of a fence will impede the fire department should, heaven forbid, the need arise. Does KBPD have the manpower to ensure the safety of those utilizing the Greenway as well as the residents directly abutting the Greenway? The word "Greenway' is a misnomer, when the very idea is to destroy the environment to lay down an asphalt runway. Environmental destruction has a huge impact on wildlife. KB is a bird sanctuary and the MOTSU property behind Settlers Lane is protected wetlands. How can the town even consider the feasibility of this Greenway extension? How can MOTSU?

Lastly, the town has hired a consultant at \$100 per hour for up to 25 hours to write a grant to obtain money for a feasibility study. It appears that the cart is leading the horse.

### **Mandy Sanders**

From: Michael Vukelich <vukelich@bellsouth.net>

Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 1:00 PM

To: Craig Bloszinsky; Allen Oliver; David Heglar; Dennis Panicali; John Ellen

**Cc:** Mandy Sanders

**Subject:** Bike/Ped Greenway Proposal

Attachments: Bike-Ped Greenway Notice on Doorstep 12112022.pdf

Town of Kure Beach Town Council,

FYI, We found this on our front doorstep last weekend and feel it is a good representation on the communities feelings on the proposed Bike/Ped trail in the Sunny Point buffer zone located to the immediate west of Settlers lane properties. Thank you for your consideration,.

Michael & Pat Vukelich 321 Settlers Ln.

The Kure Beach Bicycle/Pedestrian committee is currently trying to extend the Greenway behind our homes. Their masterplan currently shows the proposed extension running down the fire lane from K Avenue and connect to the existing Greenway at Alabama Avenue. When they unveiled their masterplan at the community center many residents in Beachwalk advised the chair of the committee, Mo Linquist, of our concerns about safety, privacy, security and the impact on nature. She stated she didn't care. That's right she stated she didn't care. She stated she only cared for the safety of the children. This was supposed to be a meeting to get public input. We found trying to talk to them is a waste of time. They are bound and determined to ram this through Town Council without any resident input.

We were informed at the last bike/ped. meeting that MOTSU (Sunny Point) has agreed to let this committee do a feasibility study. This study will be paid for with grant money. There is a lot of grant money available for these types of projects. MOTSU stated this doesn't mean they would agree to it. From what we understand the paved path would have to be close to our property lines due to the blast zone. A tall chain-link fence will have to be installed on the westside of the fire lane. The bike/ped. committee will be asking town council to bless this feasibility study at the next meeting. In the past the fire and police departments were against this Greenway extension. A tall fence will impede the fire department to actually fight a fire if there was one. I am sure the police have the same concerns as before. Town Council unanimously voted this project down when it brought to them years ago.

The Town of Kure Beach has just received lease on the fire lane property from the ditch behind town hall and extend 1000' north to install a pipe. This pipe will drain the water runoff from MOTSU property that is currently flowing on to Settlers Lane during storms. One requirement of the lease is Kure Beach must install 1000' fencing on the west side of the fire lane. We feel the Bike/ped. committee believes this provided them an opportunity to push this project through again.

There are only five homes along the Greenway runs next to in Carolina Beach. Two of them were built after the Greenway was installed and I think the other three are in a well lit area. The proposed Greenway will impact sixty-two homes along Settlers Lane.

If you are opposed to this proposed Greenway then you need to let town council and the bike/ped. committee know your concerns before it is too late. If you attend the meeting, you will be allowed 3 minutes to speak. If you want to submit something in writing you can email it to Town Clerk, Mandy Sanders at M.Sanders@TOKB.org. She will read it at the meeting. The next Board meeting is Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. You can also attend a bike/ped meeting which is Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm.

### Mike & Pat Vukelich 321 Settlers Lane Kure Beach, NC 28449

Town of Kure Beach, NC 117 Settlers Lane Kure Beach, NC 28449

Craig Blozinsky, Mayor Allen Oliver, Mayor Pro Tem David Heglar,, Commissioner John Ellen, Commissioner Dennis Panicali, Commissioner Mandy Sanders, Town Clerk Bike/Ped Committee

December 16, 2022

Dears Sirs & Madam,

Please accept this as our opposition to a Pleasure Island Bike Pedestrian Greenway location within the Sunny Point buffer zone, directly adjacent to our property on Settlers Ln.. The only location which should be considered by the Town would be the location directly adjacent to Dow Rd., which has wide ROW's and would be much less costly to construct.

The following provides concerns of ours and other resident's to a possible route location of a multi-use path proposed for the MOTSU (Sunny Point Buffer Zone), outside of the western Town Limit of Kure Beach. This proposal may call for a 10-foot wide paved "multi-use paved path" that would extend over most of the existing fire break separating the Towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach from property owned by the federal government, including the Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area.

This potential path is not parallel or adjacent to Dow Road where it should be located, which may be an acceptable alternative and supported by the Town's CAMA Land Use Plan. However, another proposal is to use the MOTSU fire-lane which is directly adjacent to homes in both Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. This location would land-lock the residents between two major transportation routes, Settlers Lane and the proposed pathway, dramatically reducing these residents' privacy, quality of life and property values.

### Issues:

- Privacy, security and safety for both the home owners and the users. A majority of our home facing the proposed route is windows allowing passerby's seeing directly into our home.
- Potential crime area concealed and secluded locations offers access to the back of many homes, vandalism, plus provides a secluded area for partying, etc.
- Wildfire hazards cigarettes, firecrackers, off road vehicle exhaust, etc.
- Expense of additional protection including police, fire and military lack of emergency vehicle access.

This bike path proposal is an effort by New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington Parks and Recreation Departments. The Town of Kure Beach Board of Commissioner are elected to govern and protect the best interests of the Town and it's residents.

This proposal has previously been befor the Town of Kure Beach Council and rejected due to residents concerns. Thank you in advance for your rejection of this current proposal.

Your support for our opposition will be greatly appreciated,

m. 7. Vulle

Mike & Pat Vukelich

Cc; 596 TT GMOTSU Sunny Point

### Not in my backyard

I'm a resident of 205 Settlers Lane, Kure Beach.

We moved here from Westport CT two years ago, which was notorious for NIMBY's, which, to be honest, drove me crazy.

BUT in the case of the Greenway and proposal for a bike path, the suggestion of putting it on the Federal land behind Settlers Lane is literally putting the path in the backyard of every property owner (62 in total) living on the west side of Settlers Lane.

I'm a daily bike rider and a frequent user of the bike path in Carolina Beach and it is a wonderful experience.

I hope you are aware that when you ride or walk along the Carolina Greenway path, that the pedestrian / bike path has a natural vegetative barrier between the homes and the path, and the balance of the pathways is buffered by side streets and a lake. There are NO natural or physical barriers between the properties on Settlers Lane and the proposed bikeway.

The suggestion of putting the bike path on the Federal land behind the homes of Settlers Lane would be a direct intrusion on the quality of life of the property owners and present security and safety issues, plus restrict emergency equipment and fire fighters to the fire break in the event of a fire in the pine forest.

On the issue of security and safety. You would be giving unknown individuals direct access to the backyards to 62 homeowners on the west side of Settlers Lane, and in the event of a burglary, a quick exit into the dark. If a second fence were added to protect the homeowners, you would be locking the bikers and pedestrians inside the bike path for almost a half a mile, with no egress in the event of an injury. The same would be true on the proposed bikeway with no fence, since there would be no egress, except over private property

As my dad once said, sometimes the easiest solution is the best solution.

You can currently ride or walk comfortably directly from the Carolina bike path via Spot Lane onto Settlers Lane, which has been freshly paved and is wonderful for biking and walking, connecting directly to K Ave. The solution already exists!

### **Mandy Sanders**

From: Sent: Joe Burke <Marketit@charter.net> Friday, December 16, 2022 8:44 AM

To:

Mandy Sanders

Subject:

Bike path - again

Dear Ms. Sanders,

Below is my objection to this second bike path revision. I have not bothered with the waste of money for the first revision that this would entail, as I believe it should be obvious.

### Bike Path Revisited

Once again this topic is on the table and the new proposal is the worst yet. This new proposal will, evidently, terminate on K Avenue. This will dump all bike and pedestrian traffic using the route on to a major road and at a point where these users will be highly subject to vehicular traffic—much more so than currently and at a higher speed.

The proposed fence will impact wild life, which has already been heavily impacted by continuous construction, which is reducing its habitat. The fence will act as a catch for both manmade and natural debris, which will create a fire hazard. The fence will also inhibit any fire, police and first responders in case of fire, criminal activity or medical emergency. It will not prevent users from creating their own avenue of exit into existing home owner's property.

A fire hazard will be increased along the most populated area of this proposed route as many users do smoke and discarded smoking material, if not properly extinguished is a live fire hazard.

The proposed route will create a danger for all using it from possible criminal elements, no different than occurs in secluded park areas. It will produce an ideal hiding place for human predators, bent on robbery or assault (both physical and sexual) all out of site.

The chair of the committee, Mo Linquist, has apparently she stated that she "doesn't care" about all of the negative aspects of this new route, just cares about the safety of the children. A statement such as that is indicative of narrow-mindedness, with only a personal desire to be satisfied. Most young children tend to be accompanied by an adult(s). I ask the chair; will women, children and older adults be any safer when they use a path that secludes them both physically and visually, inhibits police and early responders and allows predatory individuals to secret themselves in the trees and bushes?

The current use of Settlers Lane, as a portion of the bike path, has increased the traffic flow on this street and because it has been indicated as part of the bike path, has increased the hazard of an accident with a vehicle exiting a driveway, commercial traffic and emergency vehicles. The majority of the bike riders, that I have witnessed, ignore the vehicle regulations they are supposed to follow and generally feel free to ride freely as they please. At least, it does not totally restrict their route, as the suggested route would, and allows them the safety of being "out-in-the-open".

Is the cost maintenance of this portion of the proposed change a separately funded item or will it come out of Kure Beach tax revenues?

Overall, I only see this as a negative change for a small percentage of the population. I hope, with respect to all property owners, that this proposal will be available to the residents as an open vote, and not a "closed door" ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burke

### **Mandy Sanders**

From:

Lloyd Rasmussen < lloyd.rasmussen@att.net>

Sent:

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 4:50 PM

To:

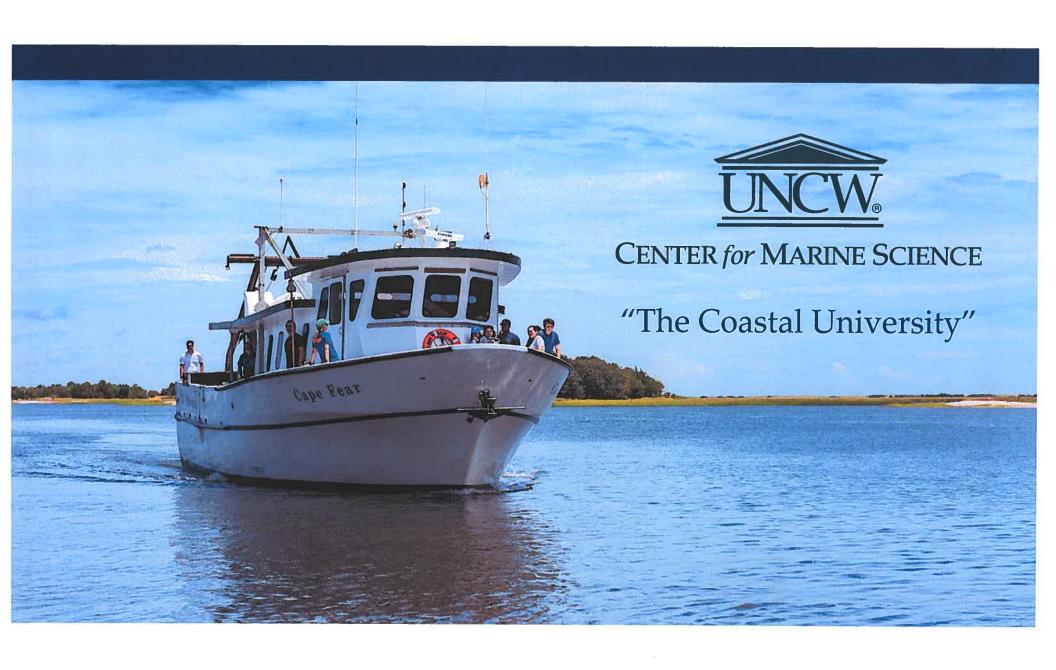
**Mandy Sanders** 

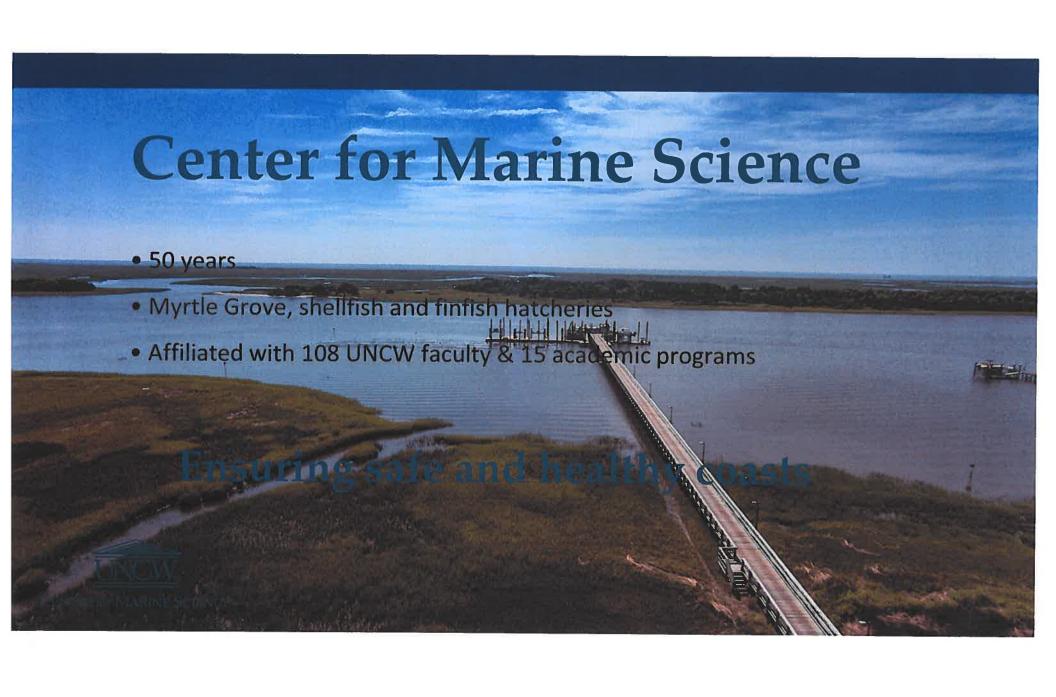
**Subject:** 

Greenway

As one of the 62 houses located on Settlers Lane, we vehemently oppose This Bike/Pedestrian committee's proposal as does the Kure Beach Town Council who voted this down years ago, and the Police and Fire Depts. of the town of Kure Beach have always been against this proposal. Please do not let this study continue and lets keep Kure Beach the paradise we treasure and love.

Thank you for your consideration. Lloyd and Diane Rasmussen

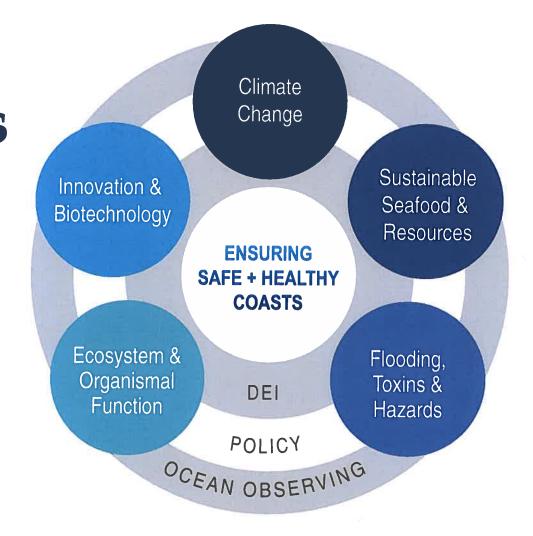






## CMS Thematic Areas

**WORK IN PROGRESS** 





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The UNCW Global Marine Science Summit is sponsored by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.

## Windfarms

A climate change solution

What we don't know vs.
What is not known





# Flooding and Inundation

Complex flooding

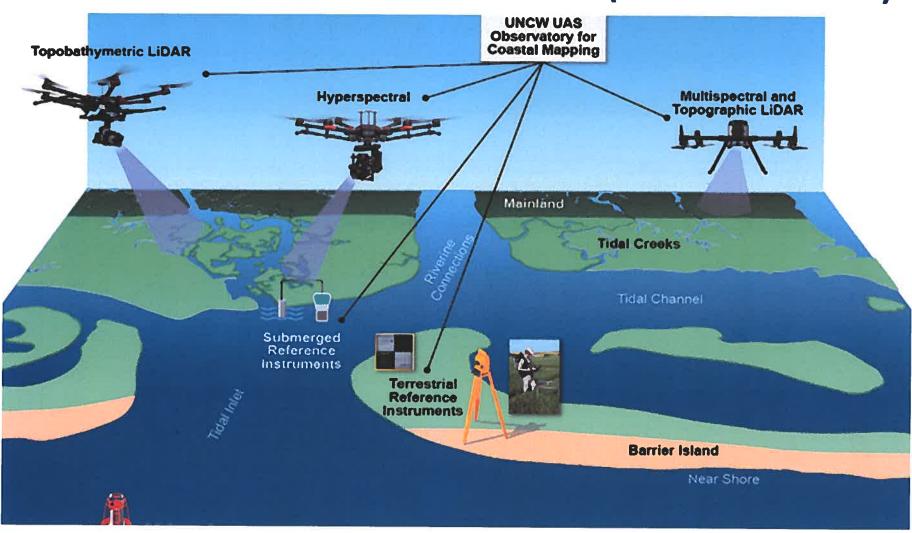
Need to be able to model and predict





STAR NEWS - CAROLINA BEACH

## **UNCW COASTAL UAS OBSERVATORY (FUNDED BY NSF)**



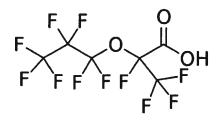
## **Toxicants & Pollutants**

## Harmful Algal Blooms





### PFAS detection









The beauty of North Carolina's lakes and rivers is being threatened by a group of human-made themicals, known as PFAS, including GenX.



To understand the extent of PFAS contamination across the state, the North Carolina General Assembly funded a statewide research study.



This study is a collaboration among universities to document the presence of PFAS and understand its impacts on the environment and our health.

Learn about the study

Meet the Network teams

What are PFAS?

# **Cape Fear River Program:**

Consortium among eight industries and 11 public entities







**Environmental assessments** 

# Sand Mining and Replenishment













## Agenda

- 1 Introductions
- 2) Who we are
- **Our member resources**
- (4) Questions

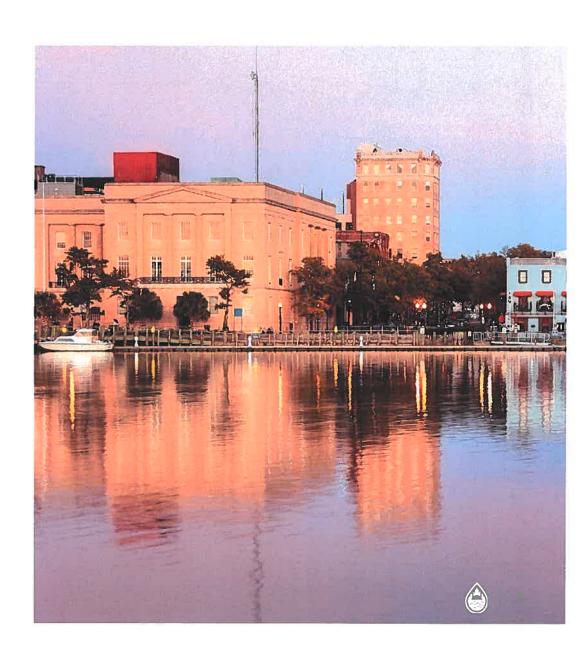
- AFC mission
- Policy platform
- AFC mission
- Policy platform
- Flood Funding Finder
- Dual Disaster Handbook

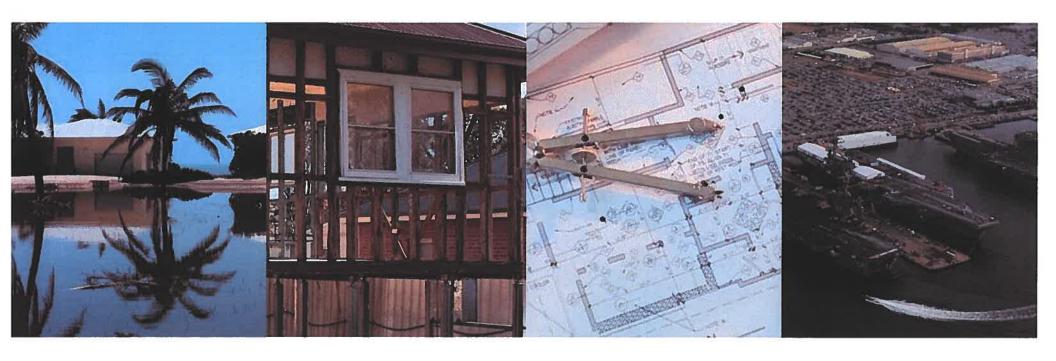
## Our mission

Protecting communities that are vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise is a national issue that must be met with **national solutions**—it is vitally important to our well-being, economic strength, and security.

With effective flooding and sea level rise planning our communities can adapt and thrive.

But we must act now.





## Our 4 pillars for coastal and inland solutions

#### **Economy**

Invest in infrastructure that boosts the economy and protects property values

#### **Communities**

Use proactive planning to keep communities safe and save taxpayer dollars

#### Rebuilding

Build back stronger to protect communities from future flooding

#### Military

Ensure our military installations are ready to deploy 365 days a year

## We are the American Flood Coalition

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and nonpartisan coalition advocating for national solutions to flooding and sea level rise













Federal Champions

Cities, Towns and Counties

**Elected Officials** 

Businesses

Military Groups

Civic and Academic Groups

## American Flood Coalition Team



# North Carolina: Member Spotlight



Town of Fair Bluff North Carolina



City of Wilmington North Carolina



Lumber River Council of Governments



Speaker Tim Moore North Carolina



Rep. Marvin Lucas North Carolina



City of Boiling Spring Lakes
North Carolina



City of New Bern North Carolina



Mayor Zeb Smathers Canton, North Carolina



Rep. Charlie Miller North Carolina



Rep. Brenden Jones

## North Carolina Members



State Rep. Bobby Hanig, (R, NC-6)



State Rep. Chris Humphrey. (R, NC-12)



State Rep. Howard Hunter, III, (D, NC-5)



Mayor Don Hardy, Kinston, NC



Fairmont

Whiteville



Nags Head



New Bern



State Rep. Brenden Jones, (R, NC-46)



Charles Kemp



State Sen. Michael Lazzara, (R, NC-6)



State Rep. Carson Smith, (R, NC-16)



State Rep. (R, NC-19)



Wilmington



Wayne Branch



State Sen. Michael Lee. (R, NC-9)



State Rep. Pat McElraft, (R, NC-13)



State Rep. Charlie Miller, (R, NC-19)



Commissioner Jacki Newton, Pender County, NC



Ted Davis, Jr.,





State Rep. Ed Goodwin, (R, NC-1)



State Rep. Billy Richardson, (D, NC-44)



Mayor Bill Saffo, Wilmington



Mayor Zeb Smathers, Canton



State Rep. John Szoka, (R, NC-45)



Bladen County



**Brunswick County** 



Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin



State Rep. Shelly Willingham, (D, NC-23)



Former State Rep. Perrin Jones, (R, NC-9)



Former State Rep. Stephen Ross, (R, NC-63)



**Robeson County** 



Bladenboro



Cape Fear Council of Governments



Cardinal Real Estate **Partners** 



Eastern North Carolina Recovery & Resilience Alliance



LDSI



Carolina Shores



Cerro Gordo



Lumber River Council of Governments



North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway **Association** 



ORC (O. R. Colan Associates, LLC)



Program for the Study of Developed **Shorelines** 



State Rep. Charles Graham,



**Duplin County** 

Brunswick

Clyde



Pender County



**Boiling Spring Lakes** 



Fair Bluff



Sig Flood Consultants



**Tabor City** 



**Greg Cummings** 



(D, NC-47)

### Our coalition has 34 Federal Champions from 15 states



Sen. Tim Scott, SC



Sen. Mark Warner, VA



Sen. Marco Rubio, FL



Sen. Bill Cassidy, LA



Sen. Gary Peters, MI



Sen. Chris Coons, DE



Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, WV



Rep. Greg Murphy, NC



Rep. David Rouzer, NC



Rep. Nancy Mace, SC



Rep. Bobby Scott, VA



Rep. Jimmy Panetta Rep. Gus Bilirakis, FL



Rep. Lois Frankel, FL



Rep. Al Lawson, FL



Rep. Stephanie Murphy, FL



Rep. Brian Mast, FL



Rep. John Rutherford, FL



Rep. María Elvira Salazar,

FL



Wasserman

Schultz, FL



FL



Rep. Debbieep. Michael Waltep. Buddy CarterRep. Rodney Davis, IL















Rep. Dan Crenshaw, TX



Rep. Lizzie



Rep. Elaine Luria, VA



Rep. Donald Rep. Tom Rice, SC McEachin, VA

Rep. Ashley Rep. Garret Grave Rep. Seth Moultor Rep. Lois Andrew Hinson, IA

LA

MA

Garbarino, NY

Rep. John Katko, NY

Rep. Joseph Morelle, NY

Fletcher, TX

### AFC at a glance

#### Over 300 members nationwide



**Federal champions** 



Cities, towns, & counties



**Elected officials** 



**Businesses** 



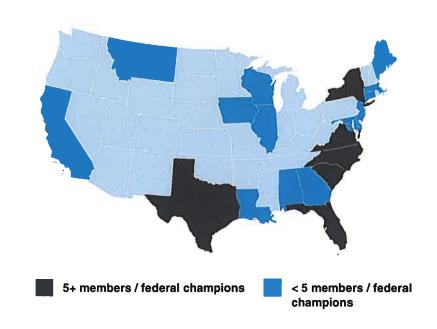
Military groups



Civic & academic

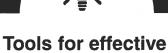
# A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and nonpartisan coalition advancing solutions to flooding and sea level rise

#### **Active in 21 states**



## What we offer











# Best-in-class educational guides

Scalable educational resources to meet our members' needs

#### Tools for effective communication

Opportunities and tools for communicating about flooding with stakeholders at all levels

# Networks of leaders on flooding

Forum to connect virtually and in-person with other leaders and share learnings

# Competitive local resilience pilots

Competitive local pilots that promote deeper engagement on flooding and sea level rise

# Platform for advocacy and education

Strong platform that makes local voices and needs heard at the federal level



## Member resource: Flood Funding Finder

This new tool breaks down federal grant and technical assistance programs best suited for flooding and sea level rise initiatives

Identifies programs by characteristics including:



Requires Presidential Disaster Declaration



No local cost share requirements



Special considerations for small municipalities



Supports project planning



Administered by state



## Member resource: Dual Disaster Handbook



Find additional information and guidance on dual disasters at www.floodcoalition.org/covid19

- In collaboration with the American Public Health Association, this guide highlights six recommendations for community leaders to prepare for the dual disasters of flooding and COVID-19
- Many places face an overlap of COVID-19 and hurricane activity alongside long-term budget strain
- Local leaders are grappling with unique challenges, such as sheltering and evacuation during the pandemic
- Smaller, under-resourced communities are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and flooding and could be left behind

## Member resources: Adaptation For All Guide



- The main purpose of the guidebook is to help local leaders determine approaches to flooding or sea level rise that can work best for them
- Highlights 26 approaches broken down by cost, benefits, and implementation considerations
- Most of the case studies found in the guide are from communities with populations less than 50,000
- The guide will make it easier for communities of any size to evaluate how those approaches can fit into their flood resilience strategies

# Eastern North Carolina Recovery & Resilience Alliance and American Flood Coalition





# We have accomplished much, but more work to be done...

- 1 Fund actionable Flood Resilience Blueprint
- (2) Ensure resilient critical transportation infrastructure
- 3 Support riverine and stream management to reduce flooding
- 4 Increase resiliency capacity and technical assistance to local governments
- 5 Fund flood mitigation and innovative pilot projects

# Recovery and Mitigation Grants

Applicant Name/Project	Initial Award Amount (\$)
Trenton/King Street	94,350.00
Wilmington Police Dept./Traffic Intersections	482,000.00
Duck/NC12 elevation, natural planting	549,659.50
Wilkesboro/Woodfield Way bridge	2,495,230.44
Mountain Project/Haywood Public Trans. Generator	36,852.07
Pollocksville/Flood Resil. Main Street	548,800.00
Lillington/E.Duncan Culvert Replacement	790,000.00
Havelock/Lee Drive	190,541.00
Elizabeth City/Regional VRA	395,000.00
Leland/Reslient Rt. Assessment	950,000.00
Elizabeth City/Rivershore Rd Bridge Replacement	1,971,000.00
Kinston/Adkin Branch Phase II	1,208,590.00
Boiling Spring Lakes/Drayton Road Improvement	922,306.00
Navassa/3 road crossing A&E	485,000.00
Carteret County/Auto Fuel refilling upgrade	225,000.00
Mt. Olive/Maple & Nelson St. Stormwater Improv.	964,100.00
Pender County/NC210 evacuation Rt. Study	200,000.00
Conserving Carolina/Davidson River Rd RR Trestle	120,000.00
Transylvania County/Hart Rd flood MIT	2,365,016.00
Total	14,993,445.01

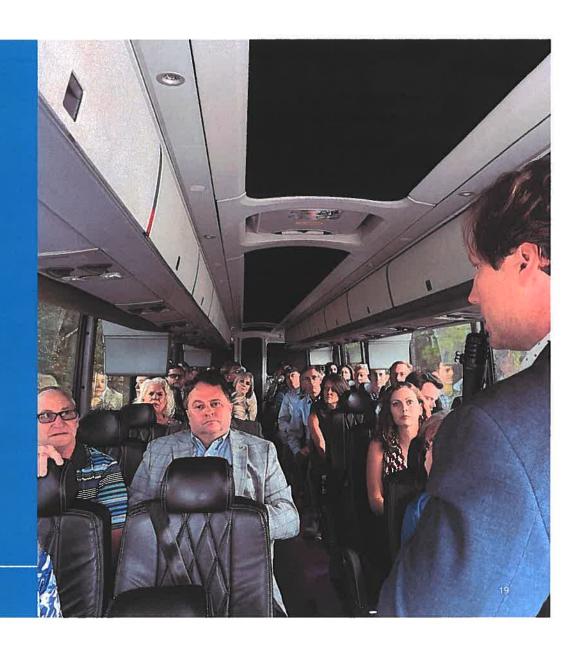




# Southeastern North Carolina Resilience Tour

**Purpose**: To highlight the achievements of the state agencies and legislature in recent and ongoing investments in resilience through the context of the four-year anniversary of Florence.

**Tactics:** As host of the event, AFC focused on resilience through a multiplestop tour with presentations and sites that symbolize stories around Florence.



### Op-ed published Sunday before event

# **OPINION: 4 years after Florence, N.C. is building a flood-resilient future**

**Bill Saffo and Jackie Newton** Guest columnists

Published 6:00 a.m. ET Sept. 11, 2022



"...We also spearheaded the efforts for the Alliance to join the American Flood Coalition — a nonpartisan coalition that advocates for flood solutions and connects us with other flood-prone communities — and we each recently joined the coalition as individual members.

#### Published in...

- Wilmington Star News
- Kinston Free Press
- New Bern Sun Journal
- Jacksonville Daily News

Through the American Flood Coalition's Mayors Summit on Flooding and Sea Level Rise in Washington, D.C., we further connected and collaborated with other Eastern North Carolina leaders, as well as our congressional delegation, including Sen. Thom Tillis and Reps. Greg Murphy and David Rouzer. "

Thank you! Questions?

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