



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

MINUTES OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER (Time Stamp: 0:25)

The Shore Protection Board meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:00am

II. ROLL CALL (Time Stamp: 1:01)

All Board Members were in attendance apart from Board Member Lawrence Kaplan who attended remotely:

Melissa Ceriale, Chairperson

Ronald Matzner, III, Vice Chairperson

Lawrence Kaplan, Shore Protection Board Member - attended remotely

Peter Matwiczuk, Shore Protection Board Member

James McKelvy, Shore Protection Board Member

Erick Reickert, Shore Protection Board Member

Joel Zylstra, Shore Protection Board Member

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Time Stamp: 1:29)

Chairperson Melissa Ceriale led **the** Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Time Stamp: 1:53)

Board Member James McKelvy requested to add living shoreline project to the agenda. Motion was made by Board Member Ronald Matzner to accept the agenda, seconded by Board Member James McKelvy to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2025 MEETING (Time Stamp: 3:21)

Motion was made by Board Member Joel Zylstra, seconded by Board Member Ronald Matzner to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTES LIMIT PLEASE (Time Stamp: 4:05)

Mr. Tom Wanke from the Surfrider Foundation recognized the Board and their importance. Mr. Wanke summarized the work that is being done for the beaches and appreciates the Board for the wonderful job they are doing.

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Ms. Diane Buehler, Friends of Palm Beach shared the debris that had been removed from the beaches.

Mr. Steve Tannenbaum, President of 2100 Condominium Association at Sloan's Curve and served as Director on the board of the Palm Beach Citizen's Association. He discussed agenda item approving groins. Mr. Tannenbaum shared that those involved participated with the best intentions, however, a new approach is required. Beach renourishments are not lasting as long as they used to.

Rick Salvator of 3300 S Ocean Blvd. co-chair of the Citizen's Association of Palm Beach. The Associations mission is to advocate for the condominium's 40+ condominiums in Palm Beach. Mr. Salvator wants to have an understanding relationship between the Town, Shore Protection Board, and Reach 7 & 8, along with the input from the Citizen's Association Board. Mr. Salvator would like to come to a best practice for the groins.

VII. REACH 7 & 8 DUNE RESTORATION (Time Stamp: 15:59)
[Sara Gutekunst, Coastal Coordinator]

Sara Gutekunst, Coastal Coordinator, shared that the dredging at Phipps Park is complete and the dune placement from Phipps Park to Sloan's Curve is complete.

Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works provided an update on the Reach 8 trucking. Discussion ensued.

Michael Jenkins, Ph.D., P.E., Applied Technology & Management, Inc. shared the end of turtle nesting season is October 31st and the Town has historically chosen to start dune placement projects in January to avoid work during holidays when possible.

VIII. LAKE WORTH INLET (Time Stamp: 35:22)
[Sara Gutekunst, Coastal Coordinator]

Sara Gutekunst shared EIS permitting update. A permit has been issued and congratulated Tom Perro, CPE, for all his efforts getting the permit. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Gutekunst shared the Army Corp of Engineers, are performing their maintenance dredging of the Lake Worth Inlet. The pipeline has been extended 2,000 feet south of the inlet to try and get sand on the beach further south. Discussion ensued.

Chair Ceriale said the Shore Protection Board recognizes and acknowledges the goodwill of the people in Reach 2 for accommodating placement and the movement of sand in collaboration with our Beach Management Plan and recognizes a difficult year with light and noise pollution. The Board will commit themselves to working on behalf of the residents to assure future projects are not as impactful and disruptive in our lives.

Motion was made by Board Member Matzner and seconded by Chair Ceriale that the Shore Protection Board recognizes and acknowledges the goodwill of the people in Reach 2 for accommodating placement and the movement of sand in collaboration with the Beach Management Plan and recognizes the difficult year with light and noise pollution. The Board will commit to working on behalf of the residents to ensure future projects are not as impactful and disruptive. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

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IX. THE BREAKERS PALM BEACH SHORE PROTECTION (Time Stamp: 1:12:19)
[Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works]

Mr. Brazil shared that Mid-Town FCCE is a federal project. The Army Corps will rebuild 100% at their cost. Congress passed a bill, Water Resources Development Act, for water recovery projects, which provides a two (2) year grace period that you can use the easements that were used last time. Unfortunately, the Army Corps needs guidance for implementation. The Corps needs Washington to describe better what the WRDA language means. Therefore, we are not sure what is going to happen with the recovery project, short term. Long term, if Mid-Town is going to stay Federal, perpetual public-use easements need to be in place. There is no current solution or alternative for those easements. There are a group of residents who do not want to sign easements with property rights concerns. The mayor, Town Managers office, made a recommendation to new administration on revised language for those easements that staff believes would alleviate the concerns for most involved. In parallel, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, who are a group of communities who have shoreline issues, ocean front or gulf coast, waterfront communities, lobbying the administration independently of what the Town is trying to do. The Town has joined that as well. The concern is with a large coalition, with a larger group, the more diverse the concerns are and the targeted approach is being lost. The first hurdle will be to modify the easement language. The lobbyist for that group is trying to bring it down to a simple ask. There is no update at this time. Those that did not sign easements, may never sign as was relayed to Staff and Town Council they have no intention of signing. Staff is doing everything they can to hold on to Mid-Town being a Federal project.

Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Board Member Matzner and seconded by Chair Ceriale. Shore Protection Board recommends support ongoing efforts to modify Federal easement language with respect to easement being perpetual and mandate public use west of the ECL. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

(Time Stamp: 1:29:17) -- Citizen, Reuben Johnson, 990 Adam Road, previous member of the Shore Protection Board. Shared this topic is very much discussed. People who have beachfront property have had their beach replenished, at tax payers expense, and it is just not right. This needs to be made well known. People need to cooperate in a Town serving way and make the resources viable and strong for all citizens of the Town.

Discussion ensued.

(Time Stamp: 1:55:29) -- Citizen, Reuben Johnson, 990 Adam Road, previous member of the Shore Protection Board addressed the Board that the area of the coast is the most studied area of any part of east coast Florida. Hundreds of thousands of dollars to have experts come in and the beach came back without doing anything. Mr. Johnson is indicated that new structures were being put into place.

Chair Ceriale said the rock structures it filled in and supported their foundation on the most eastern side of the property. What it did, where groins end then the next beach went away for the guests. That is what caused them to go back and add additional structures.

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X. GROIN REHABILITATION (Time Stamp: 2:00:57)
[Sara Gutekunst, Coastal Coordinator]

Ms. Gutekunst shared the status of the Town's groins, what has been done, and the current implementation plan. As a Town, there are 124 groins identified between Reaches 2 through 6 in various states of condition. Previously, the Shore Protection Board has been informed and presented presentations on groins as back up, there is a history of discussions. There have been studies on the groins on their function and effectiveness, and if they should be removed or repaired.

The current plan as directed from Town Council is for the Town to act as the umbrella permit holder and work with upland property owners who will privately hire design and construction contractors to perform the work.

Discussion ensued.

XI. LIVING SHORELINE (Time Stamp: 2:26:21)

Ms. Gutekunst indicated that the project is at Palm Beach Country Club, the northern portion of the Country Club is a shoreline protection project which is in the design phase and exploring different funding options partnering with the Garden Club. The Garden Club has been helpful coming up with creative ideas, which includes a rock sill adjacent to the shoreline and planting of native vegetation protecting that area.

Mr. Brazil shared that the Town has a liability in this area. In the 1940's the Country Club deeded the roadway to the Town and for that we picked up the responsibility of the ocean front seawall that the Town has recently rebuilt, as well as a potential liability for seawall in this immediate area because of potential erosion. The Town has a standing liability to build one if needed, and the Country Club have all agreed it is not necessary right now. The living shoreline, because of how it is constructed, stops erosion. The reason this area was chosen as a trial area is it can easily get rid of the long-standing liability for the Town to build a seawall. The cost is very large to build a seawall.

Sara Gutekunst said staff is currently exploring different options for funding the Florida Navigation District Grant. The Country Club and Garden Club are looking at grants as well.

XII. SUMMER/FALL 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE (Time Stamp: 2:34:47)

Proposed dates for the next Shore Protection Board meetings are October 2nd and November 20th, 2025.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS (Time Stamp: 2:39:41)

There was no further communication from the Board.

XIV. ANY OTHER MATTERS (Time Stamp: 2:39:54)

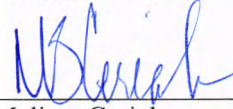
It was suggested that all correspondence is communicated to Sara Gutekunst.

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XV. ADJOURNMENT (Time Stamp: 2:43:12)

There being no further business, the Shore Protection Board of March 27, 2025, was adjourned at 11:42am. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Board Member McKelvy, seconded by Board Member Matzner. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

APPROVED:



Melissa Ceriale,
Chairperson

Meeting audio is located at: https://townofpalmbeach.granicus.com/player/clip/3135?view_id=5&redirect=true