



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Minutes of the Shore Protection Board Meeting Held on March 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

Members Present: Ronald Matzner, Chair; Peter Matwiczuk, Vice Chair; Tim Cohan, Austin Fragomen, Lawrence Kaplan, James McKelvy and Joel Zylstra

Staff Present: Paul Brazil, Patricia Strayer, Sara Gutekunst, and Pat Gayle-Gordon

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Matzner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the January 9, 2026, Shore Protection Board Meeting

Mr. McKelvy stated that the section of the minutes which deals with the sea turtle signage should be amended to read: "The signage was considered. The Shore Protection Board requested that the signage be revised to be more in keeping with the Town of Palm Beach standards."

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matzner to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2026, meeting as amended. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Zylstra and seconded by Mr. Kaplan to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

COMMENTS

2. OFFICIALS

Mr. Kaplan spoke regarding Reach 8, stating that he had heard from citizens that a lot of the sand placed there is now gone. He also stated that he fully supports the living shoreline work that is

being done at Par 3 and thinks this is a good opportunity for protecting the Par 3.

Mr. Matwiczak expressed concern that senior staff members, specifically Paul Brazil and Patricia Strayer, would be retiring within the next few months. Mr. Brazil stated that the staff is prepared to take over those positions.

3. STAFF

4. PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Skip Aldridge, 2229 S. Ocean Blvd., spoke on behalf of the Citizens Association regarding the dune restoration.

Albert Rayten, 3400 S. Ocean Blvd., the Atriums, spoke regarding the dune restoration project. Sara Gutekunst responded to the resident's concerns.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Coastal Budget Overview

Sara Gutekunst presented the budget for the current fiscal year. She explained that the presentation is informational about the proposed budget and is intended to help the Board understand the program's projects. Mr. Brazil and Ms. Strayer provided clarification on the budget process. Mr. Matzner spoke regarding the role of the Shore Protection Board. Tom Pierro, Coastal Engineering, addressed concerns raised by Mr. McKelvy.

Ms. Gutekunst went through the budget line by line, explaining what each line item entails. She, Mr. Brazil, and Ms. Strayer provided clarification on certain items. Bob Miracle, Deputy Town Manager, Finance & Administration, presented the Coastal fund for FY21-FY26. Mr. Miracle spoke regarding increases in funding from the General Fund to the Coastal Fund, the process for funding requests, and the budget process. He explained that property taxes make up 70% of the Town's revenues and discussed the potential impact on the Town's budget, specifically the Coastal fund, if the State eliminates property taxes for residents. He answered questions.

Discussion ensued regarding dune vegetation plantings and the Board's potential role in encouraging homeowners to plant. Ms. Gutekunst spoke regarding compiling information on how there could be partnerships between the Town and residents on dune restoration. Mr. Brazil spoke regarding Living Shorelines, dune restorations, and seawall replacements. Further discussion ensued regarding addressing issues that had been raised by public comment speakers.

6. Upcoming Town Council Items

Sara Gutekunst stated that it is good practice for Board Members to attend Town Council meetings. She also stated that at the 4/14 Town Council Meeting, shoreline conditions will be presented. Mr. Brazil also stated that there will be a direct response to the Clark Beach comments made at the last Town Council Meeting. Discussion ensued on other items on the upcoming agenda, specifically regarding Sloane's Curve and effectively communicating with residents.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Matzner made comments regarding communication between staff, board, and the public. He stated that he will be resigning from the Board as he will be moving out of Town.

MEETING SCHEDULE

7. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matzner to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


Peter Matwiczuk, Chair