



**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA
LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

Monday, May 18, 2026

The Land Use and Natural Resources Committee met at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 18, 2026, at Town Hall (2056 Middle St.), all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been met. Present were:

Committee members: Ned Higgins (Chair), Carl Hubbard, and Pat O'Neil

Staff: Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Pam Otto, and Max Wurthmann

- A. Call to Order.** Chair Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., stating the press and public were duly notified pursuant to state law, and all Committee members were present.

Media: One (1)

Public: Fourteen (14)

B. New Business (Discussion and Action Items)

Public Comment:

- Amelia Dakine, 5th grader at SIES – is in the recycling club and wants better monitoring of the trash bins on the beach paths to improve the quality of the beach.
- Lisa Walker Hills, 5th grader at SIES – goes to the beach a lot and picks up litter and would like the littering problem to be addressed because people do not listen to the signs.
- Phoebe Thomason, 5th grader at SIES – provided tips on how to prevent littering including better communication and holding meetings about the issues so people know more about the impacts of littering.
- Ollie Pilsworth, 5th grader at SIES – sad because people litter at the beach and would like Council to help with the problem.

1. Discussion of litter on beach, including pet waste (R. Fanning)

Pat O'Neil and Carl Hubbard thanked the students for coming and commended them on their well-spoken comments.

Director of Resilience and Natural Resource Management Rebecca Fanning discussed public correspondence, including more letters from students at SIES.. She also reviewed discussions she's had with the head of the Maintenance Department, Chief Anthony Stith, regarding ways to encourage people to stop littering. They have come up with a number of options including working with Republic Services. It has been suggested multiple times to put trash cans on the beach, which has been done in the past. For safety, practical, and environmental reasons, the Town will not place cans on the beach. She also discussed potentially improving or creating new signage to remind people they are responsible for picking up after themselves and their pets. Enforcement was also discussed, and she reviewed the current ordinances and consequences for violations. She then took questions from the Committee and the public. Chair Higgins requested that staff come up with a few options for solutions to be presented.

2. Discussion of beach access path signage (R. Fanning)

Ms. Fanning reviewed the priority list of signage replacement and stated Stations 12 and 28 are in need of replacements. She also said some of the Stations don't have any of the rules posted, including Stations 10 and 17. Redesigning and possibly changing the wording on the signs is also an option. It was decided to work with a designer and come up with a few options for new signage that still use the wooden structures.

3. Discussion of past Eagle Scout Projects and future procedures (R. Fanning)

Past projects include benches on the Nature Trail, bat houses, bluebird boxes at the Old Dump and Battery Gadsden, and osprey nest platforms at the Benke-Lowe Landing, Old Dump, and the causeway. The one at the Old Dump was repaired recently and is being used. Ms. Fanning is looking to possibly have the other two repaired as well.

4. Consideration for entering an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) the with American College of the Building Arts to study preservation opportunities for Old Town Hall building during Spring of 2027 (C. Drayton and M. Wurthmann)

Planning and Zoning Director Charles Drayton stated he does not have a draft of the MOU yet, but it was discussed at the subcommittee meeting for Old Town Hall and needed input from this Committee. There is a possibility of having students from the ACBA study the Old Town Hall building and provide a report and list of suggestions for it's future uses at the end of the semester. It would be at no cost to the Town. He then took questions from the Committee and it was suggested the students could also possibly look at Battery Logan. The students would sign a waiver for the Town to work on Town property and would be covered by their school's insurance. Chair Higgins stated the recommendation can be moved to Council.

C. Old Business (Staff update available; Discussion/Action not required)

1. Discussion of invasive plant species removal program (R. Fanning)

Ms. Fanning provided updates from the Tree Commission, who is currently in the process of doing a budget analysis and identifying potential future projects, which will be recommended to this Committee. She then took questions from the Committee.

2. Discussion of property use agreement for the collection of dune restoration plant material in the RC-1 (R. Fanning)

This item is still pending.

3. Update of Palmetto Planting Plan (R. Fanning)

The Town will continue to work with Dominion Energy to make sure the trees are planted where they are supposed to be, as to not be in the way of any power line repairs and will be planted once Dominion approves the locations. She then took questions from the Committee.

4. Update on Planning Commission and Ordinance Workshop session (C. Drayton)

Drafts for the erosion control structure in the RC District and to create conditional use in the RS District ordinances are moving forward to a Public Hearing at the Planning Commission on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. He then took questions from the Committee.

5. Update on Natural Resource FY26 Capital Improvement Projects (R. Fanning)

Much of the funds allotted for invasive species removal and educational materials for residents has not been spent, but invasive trees were removed at Battery Thompson and bids have been received for similar work to be conducted at Battery Gadsden. Additionally, an informational booklet was proposed for printing. She then took questions from the Committee.

D. Public Comment

E. Adjourn

Motion: Motion was made to adjourn at 11:27 a.m. by Pat O'Neil, seconded by Carl Hubbard, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Otto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'A'.

Pamela Otto

Approved at the September 15, 2026 regular meeting of Town Council.