



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

Friday, October 24, 2025

The Land Use and Natural Resources Committee met at 1:00 p.m., Friday, October 24, 2025, at Town Hall (2056 Middle St.), all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been met. Present were:

Committee members: Gary Visser (Chair), Carl Hubbard, and Pat O'Neil

Staff: Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Chuck Hill, Collin Livingston, and Pam Otto

- A. Call to Order.** Chair Visser called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., stating the press and public were duly notified pursuant to state law, and all Committee members were present.

Media: One (1)

Public: Four (4)

- Bobby Cummings, 1450 Thompson Ave – in regards to Cove dredging, nearby residents are ready to help and offer \$40,000 to help fund the process.

B. New Business (Discussion and Action Items)

1. Discussion of pet waste littered on beach (R. Fanning)

Director of Resilience and Natural Resource Management Rebecca Fanning stated multiple residents have mentioned people leaving pet waste behind has become a larger issue. There has been an increase in dog licenses issued in the past few years and after doing some research, Ms. Fanning found Stations 18, 18 ½, and 22 are where the most waste is left behind. She also found most people are leaving behind bags with waste inside and contrary to popular belief, using a compostable bag is not always the best solution, for various reasons. Though most paths have a sign about picking up pet waste, increased and/or improved signage could be a temporary solution, maybe adding more information about the dangers of leaving pet waste behind. Giving out a pamphlet and/or conducting a more comprehensive study regarding waste was also suggested. Another was giving out pet waste bag holders that clip onto a leash and hold the bag, rather than the walker carrying it around or leaving it to maybe forget about later.

Beach Service Officer (BSO) Chuck Hill agreed that action needed to be taken as the Island is seeing an increase in dog activity. Ms. Fanning then took questions from the Committee. BSO Collin Livingston suggested increasing officer presence in high traffic areas, rather than increasing signage.

- Samantha Ploch, 1502 Thompson Ave – mentioned a group picking up trash on a daily basis with specific collection bags, suggesting there is likely more than what Rebecca observed. Giving out said bags may also be a way to deter littering.

Chair Visser recommended continuing research, as well as considering signs with more stern verbiage, and possibly handing out a pet bag waste holder with dog licenses (one that holds a used bag, not a roll of unused bags). Mr. O’Neil is interested in the holders as well as possibly adding to the ordinance language that requires owners to have a disposal bag with them at all times. Mr. Hubbard asked about possibly increasing the fines.

2. Consideration of possible appropriate non-profit group for receipt of potential donations from Dominion Energy SC and SC Department of Transportation for mitigation of palmetto removals by Dominion Energy (R. Fanning)

Ms. Fanning highlighted the multiple times this topic was publicly discussed, emphasizing the July 16, 2024 meeting where motions were passed to accept and authorize \$25,000 to put towards the tree planting program from both Dominion Energy and SCDOT. Another motion was passed for the Town to match the \$25,000 in support. During last year’s safety assessment, the Town was able to save 269 palmetto trees and only 256 were cut. She recommended Coastal Community Foundation as the non-profit to assist with the project. She then took questions from the Committee.

Motion: Motion was made by Pat O’Neil, seconded by Carl Hubbard, to refer the recommendation to Council, passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of SCDOT Historic Palmetto Relocation project (R. Fanning)

Three historic palmettos that were slated for removal by Dominion are going to be relocated by SCDOT. They are ready for relocation, hopefully as soon as the following week. These will be put alongside existing palmettos at Poe Park, in the SCDOT right-of-way, next to Middle Street. This project has gone through a thorough feasibility study and has the cooperation of all Town departments.

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

1. Update of Town Tree Replacement List (R. Fanning)

Ms. Fanning presented part of the first draft provided by our consultants for the Town's new tree replacement guide. These will be available to the public once published free of charge.

2. Update of LUNR subcommittee for historic design recognition plaque (C. Drayton)

Zoning Administrator Charles Drayton stated they have received an example of what the historic design recognition plaque will look like. The plaques will be customized with individual addresses and have a rough estimate of \$600 to produce. They are considering creating one for Old Town Hall as an example for interested property owners.

3. Cove Creek Dredging (C. Drayton)

Sullivan's Island Town staff met with some of Isle of Palm's City staff to learn about their permitting and project process for both public and private dredging. It is all under one dredging project, but the property owners participating have to obtain their own permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and SC Department of Environmental Services (DES). Permits can cost up to \$500,000, mainly for engineering costs. Dredging costs vary depending on the amount dredged, but the Town does have an area for spoil material disposal. The Town is waiting on more information about the current dredging project being done at the Fort Moultrie dock, which is currently on hold due to the federal government shut-down. Mr. Drayton then took questions from the Committee. He also clarified the Intracoastal Waterway is considered waters of the State, but is under Sullivan's Island municipal jurisdiction. Isle of Palms has a city-owned marina that requires dredging, which is why the city itself was involved.

D. Public Comment

E. Adjourn

Motion: Motion was made to adjourn at 2:03 p.m. by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela Otto

Approved at the November 18, 2025 Town Council meeting