



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Public Facilities Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 9, 2026

A. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements: The Public Facilities Committee of Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 9, 2026 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Ned Higgins, Carl Hubbard (Chair), and Laura Schroeder. Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Amanda Hawver, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were fifteen (15) members of the public present and no (0) members of the media.

B. Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

C. New Business (Possible Action Item)

1. Approval of the December 18, 2025 Public Facilities Committee meeting minutes

Motion was made by Laura Schroeder, seconded by Ned Higgins, to approve the December 18, 2025 Public Facilities Committee meeting minutes, passed unanimously,

2. Station 32 beach access consideration (Steven Traynum, Coastal Science Engineering)

Steven Traynum from Coastal Science Engineering presented the current conditions of the Station 32 access path, which has been closed for the past few months due to a steep drop-off at the end of the path. He showed the boundaries of the Town easement and photographic history of the path and the erosion that has occurred. He noted the changes in the landscaping of the neighboring properties, stating it extended into the Town easement at times. He also discussed the sand distribution project that happened last year as a result of the Breach Inlet dredging conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Town placed the sand from the project into the dunes there and also planted some vegetation. He then presented four possibilities and took questions from the Committee:

1. Do nothing and let nature take its course. The dunes will continue to erode.
2. Restore the narrow walking path back to how it was in 2023 by removing some of the current dune elevation. He pointed out they typically do not recommend removing current dunes but this is a unique case.
3. Constructing an angled wooden, or similar material, walkover structure. This one end would terminate higher on the beach, allowing for more access during high tide.
4. Constructing a straight wooden, or similar material, walkover structure.

He said they do not have a direct recommendation as the many pros and cons of each option need to be discussed further. Options three and four are subject to change due to future erosion. He also provided rough cost estimates for each option.

Public Comment:

- John Fradella, 3301 Marshall Blvd – would like the Station 32 access fixed because people will go instead to the Station 31 access, get stuck at high tide, and have to walk up the rocks to exit. He feels people will be too lazy to walk all the way down to the beach and will hang out in front of his house and his neighbors. He is also concerned about people walking in the street if they park near 32 and have to walk to 31.
- Loli Sertich, 3034 Marshall Blvd – asked how the path got this way and feels it should have been maintained. She supports option 2 that Mr. Traynum offered because the walkovers do not last.

Mr. Traynum answered a question from Chair Hubbard, and explained the existing seawalls that exist in that area were grandfathered in and new ones are not allowed due to state and federal law. He said there has been talk of having these laws changed, which he supports, due to the existing situation of areas like Station 32.

- Jon Gunnerson, 3113 Marshall Blvd – supports trying to get the laws changed and feels the current situation is a liability. He thinks things will never improve by doing nothing.
- Patrick Marr, 3010 Marshall Blvd – asked if nothing is done, will the path be closed indefinitely and if there is money to maintain beach paths. He supports option 2 while also trying to get seawalls approved.
 - Town Administrator Joe Henderson answered yes, if it stays in the current state.
 - Chair Hubbard answered there is money in the budget to maintain paths.
- Dean Feldman, 3123 Marshall Blvd – bought the property in 2018, mitigated it then and will help with maintenance moving forward. He also supports building a permanent structure.
- Dan Legare, 3104 Marshall Blvd – would like to know the cost of maintenance requirements for each option.

Mr. Traynum answered a question from Mr. Higgins, saying all properties would need to participate in building a rock seawall and yes, it will likely push the erosion further down, past wherever it ends. He also reiterated it would be very a difficult and lengthy path for this option to be approved, and is not guaranteed.

- Emily Brasher supports option two.

Ms. Schroeder supports looking further at options two – four and coming up with a solution as soon as possible. Mr. Traynum suggested having engineers look at the situation to provide more specifics as well as budget proposals. Mr. Henderson stated there are emergency funds available if they choose to build a walkover in FY2026 and it can also be added as a line item for FY2027. Bids for any work done would be taken through standard Town procurement procedures.

3. SC250 discussion on Palmetto Log Fort and presentation of findings from the Battery Capron geotechnical engineering report (Lee Eaves, Terracon)

Brett Bennet from the SC250 Committee returned to answer questions that were asked at the last Town Council meeting. It was suggested at the last meeting to erect the partial replica of the fort on top of the Mound (Battery Capron) rather than at Battery Gadsden. The suggested footprint is 2200 square feet, with two gun placements and a fence surrounding the fort. They are also considering adding informational signage and a few benches. He provided sketches of two design options and discussed materials and what else would be needed. There is ample parking surrounding the area, and the Town suggested installing two ADA parking spaces at the top of the Mound for easier access to the structure. If the Council approves the project and location, he will begin talking to general contractors to get a price estimate, which SC250 will cover. They are hoping to have it built by June of this year and will deconstruct it in September 2027. Mr. Bennet and the Committee took questions from the audience.

Mr. Henderson stated the Town has received an informal report from Terracon regarding a geotechnical evaluation and the proposed location on top of the Mound is a suitable site. Terracon provided some suggestions that will be forwarded to the architect and structural engineers and the official report should be ready soon. The SC250 Committee would cover the costs of the structure of the fort, with the Town providing roughly \$8,000 for installing ADA parking spaces. Mr. Henderson does not have a cost estimate for other work that would be done, but there is roughly \$30,000 left in the funds allotted to SC250 in the FY2026 budget. He also said they would like to install an updated security gate and some signage leading up to the Mound if the project is approved. Mr. Bennet then took questions from the Committee.

Motion was made by Ned Higgins, seconded by Laura Schroeder, to pass this up to Town Council for them to vote on whether Council wants to approve it or not, with the provision that we are able to confirm the safety, the preliminary report we showed earlier that if we put in these footers, it will be safe, but would like a confirmation from an engineer on that, and making sure that as this project continues forward, we have an engineer sign off on the safety and stability of it, that is number one importance; we have already talked about

budget, we need to stay within budget from a Town perspective and we need to be super transparent about all those costs so that we can share with residents what it is that we are spending; based on those two, we bring it forward to Council so that we can continue to work, it gives SC250 to move forward with bids, we recognize that the clock is ticking, we need to move with haste to make a decision to move it to Council for further consideration, passed unanimously.

D. Old Business (Staff update available)

1. Update on the final engineering design of the Station 24 boardwalk: it had four bids come in for the construction. Director of Resilience and Natural Resource Management Rebecca Fanning stated the committee will now review the bids and make a selection at the next meeting. Ms. Schroeder would like the selection process to be public rather than done during Executive Session.

Fire Chief Anthony Stith stated his department typically starts hanging American flags on light poles on June 14, and he would like to know if they want anything other than the regular flag hung. The Volunteer Fire Department pays for the 212 flags that are put up. The Committee would like to see a variety of flags, such as the Liberty flag and the Betsy Ross flag. This is not an SC250 project.

For the SC250 banners, Mr. Henderson stated the Town was quoted around \$500 per banner, which includes the banners, poles, and installation. He also provided a preliminary design. Council will need to make a decision on how many to order.

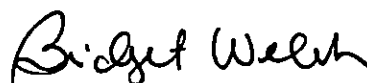
E. Public Comment

1. Boardwalk Bids

F. Adjourn

Motion was made by Laura Schroeder, seconded by Ned Higgins, to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch