



Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Our Plan Environment Work Group**

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 4:00 PM**

The Living Lab at Town Hall

## **MEETING NOTES**

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### **Work Group:**

### ***Redefining Environmental Sustainability***

**Present from Work Group:** Michael Barbara, Mike Bennett, Richard Blaine, Alexa Broadbent, Jean Fruh, Amber Kuehn, Kenneth Quilty, Tony Wartko

**Present from Town Staff:** Anne Cyran, Taylor Ladd, Jennifer Ray

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- The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
- Michael Barbara introduced himself.
- Reviewed notes from Development Team Meeting on July 15, 2019.
- Reviewed SOAR results. Topics discussed:
  1. The new development near Fish Haul Road and how much capacity we have for new developments like this. We need someone with some authority and knowledge to tell us know what our capacity is, what the tipping point is.
  2. Educating the public on the importance of planting trees, especially to replace the ones that fell or were cut down after Hurricane Matthew.
  3. The importance of not being reactive and considering the long-term implications of environmental choices; example: the unintended consequences of banning plastic bags.
  4. Not knowing where the Town is right now. The public service district provides recycled wastewater to golf courses, but do that provide it to residences? Does the building code cover tree mitigation?
  5. In terms of regulation, where is the line of authority between the Town and the gated communities? For example, replanting trees. Can the Town influence what the gated communities do?
  6. The Town should consider incentives and disincentives. For example, the Town could require a fee for forest management/tree bank.
  7. In considering the consequences of environmental choices, consider what Town the role could play in encouraging the best choice. For example, using cloth bags instead of plastic bags. Cloth bags are more expensive, but the Town could help fund the purchase of cloth bags as an alternative.
  8. What is the maximum capacity for impervious surface?
  9. Considering the number of people on the beach, we're at capacity now, and we have more hotels being built now. Emergency access to the beach is limited now.
  10. When trying to solve an issue, the Town should pass an ordinance and then amending it if needed, instead of taking longer to pass an ordinance.

11. We should add waste management and recycling to Opportunities. We should add lack of waste management infrastructure to Weaknesses.

12. Building a commercial transfer station on the Island would allow haulers to use different landfills that are cheaper or have more recycling options and facilities.

13. Composting food and landscape waste could cut the number of waste trucks driving over the bridge by 20%.

14. Composting also creates nutrient rich soil, which we need on the Island; our soil isn't very good.

15. Who manages the beach, and how is it managed? Do the plantations that front the beach manage their portion of it?

- Defined Our Plan terminology: Goals; Strategies; and Tactics.
- Reviewed Goals and Implementation Strategies from 2010 Comprehensive Plan. Topics discussed:
  1. The Goals and Implementation Strategies in Chapter 3: Natural Resources tie most directly to the Environment Work Group. Chapter 3 is divided into: Water Quality and Quantity; Air Quality; Positive Impacts of Environmental Preservation on Quality of Life; Environmental Education; and Sustainable Development.
  2. Other relevant Goals and Implementation Strategies from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan:
    - (1) Chapter 2 (Cultural Resources), Section 3 (Community Character), Goal A (page 2-6): "To preserve and enhance the natural and physical environments that reflect the character of the Island."
    - (2) Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **C** (page 6-4), "To address the challenges that salt water intrusion presents for Island water sources."
    - (3) Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **D** (page 6-4), "To promote water conservation."
    - (4) Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **E** (page 6-4), "To have sewer service Island-wide."
    - (5) Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **F** (page 6-4), "To have well-maintained, effective stormwater infrastructure on the Island."
    - (6) Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **G** (page 6-4), "To have a solid waste and recycling program for the Island and to educate residents and visitors on the benefits of recycling."
    - (7) Chapter 7 (Economy), Section 7.7 (Key Implementation Strategies) (page 7-5), "Consider setting up a Land Planning and/or "Green Practices" Center of Excellence based on, and leveraging off, Hilton Head Island early visionary thinking (Fraser principles), heritage learnings, and leading edge knowledge gained from the development of renowned developments such as those at Sea Pines."
    - (8) Chapter 8 (Land Use), Section 1 (Existing Land Use), Goal B (page 8-1), "To maintain the character of the Island while insuring adequate infrastructure is in place and balancing land conservation to meet future needs."
- Discussed draft goal categories for Environment:
  1. Waste Diversion/Solid Waste Management
  2. Limit Impervious Surface
  3. Water: Potable; Runoff; Recycled
  4. Education/Brand Identity; Data; Visuals
  5. Forest/Tree Management
  6. Renewable Energy/Conserving Energy

7. Environmental Quality; Human Health; Wildlife Health (HH&E)
8. Climate Change
9. Development/Redevelopment Standards; Neutral Development

Additional Topics that may be made into a separate goal category or may be integrated into one or more goal categories above:

- \* Transit/Transportation
  - \* Beach + Waterways
  - \* Eco-Tourism
  - \* Brand
  - \* Education
  - \* Regulation (Local, State, Federal)
  - \* Feedback & Reporting
- The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

**Submitted by:** Anne Cyran