



Permuda Island Reserve
 Local Advisory Committee Meeting
 November 12, 2024, 10am
 North Topsail Beach Town Hall

Attendance

LAC Partner Organization Members	Present
Deb Hill, Town of North Topsail Beach Administration	Yes
Town of North Topsail Beach Police Department	No
Kerri Allen, North Carolina Coastal Federation	Yes
Chris Southerly, N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources - Office of State Archaeology	Yes (virtual)
Judy Ratcliffe, N.C. Natural Heritage Program	Yes (virtual)
Community Members	
Mike Yawn	Yes
Jan Farmer	Yes
Others Present	
Paula Gillikin, Reserve Central Sites Manager	

Reserve-wide Administrative Update – Paula Gillikin

The Reserve-wide Update, which includes a range of Reserve activities, was shared with committee members prior to the meeting, reviewed during the meeting, and is included as Appendix A.

Permuda Island Reserve Business – Paula Gillikin

Site update

- Jan Farmer is the most recent person on the Local Advisory Committee to visit Permuda. She explained that some site marker signs are rusting and need to be replaced. She reported that there wasn't much debris, and it was primarily associated with fishing gear such as crab pots, crab pot buoys, and shellfish mariculture equipment. She noted that two shellfish lease signs were within the Permuda boundary.

Permuda Area of Environmental Concern

- Paula Gillikin explained that in 2023, the Rules Review Commission objected to readopting a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) rule that designates Permuda Island as a significant coastal archaeological resource area of environmental concern (AEC).
- Jan Farmer inquired about the impacts of losing the rule.

- Chris Southerly explained that the CAMA AEC designation is important, but the site is also protected via General Statute 121 as it's a state-owned property and well described as a significant archaeological site.

Management of Permuda with possible tribal input

- Paula articulated the Reserve's interest in possibly engaging an American Indian tribe, with ties to Permuda, in future management of the site and for final disposition of the native remains from Permuda that reside with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) in Raleigh.
- Chris recommended contacting the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs for guidance on how to engage with a tribe that may have had ties to Permuda or the area, generally.
- Chris also explained that the indigenous burial remains from Permuda are in review for consultation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. It may take years to understand if the remains could be re-interred at Permuda or become part of DNCR's collection in Raleigh.
- Chris answered many additional specific questions from the committee members about Permuda's archaeological resources.
- Judy Ratcliffe expressed that it's important for the Reserve to recognize and honor the long indigenous stewardship of the island that is now Permuda.
- Chris suggested that a DNCR archaeologist visit Permuda on a set basis to survey the shoreline, particularly hotspots of erosion, to document at-risk artifacts.

Roundtable Discussion

- Deb Hill explained that the Town of North Topsail Beach has increased fines for unpermitted development in wetlands. She inquired about the water quality benefits of oyster mariculture in Stump Sound and if it outweighs the detrimental effects of development. Kerri Allen and Jan Farmer expressed that measurable improvements in water quality in Stump Sound have not been seen with increasing numbers of shellfish farms. Impacts of development continue to threaten water quality.
- The Stump Sound Watershed Restoration Plan is in the final stages of approval with the State and should be published, soon.
- Judy reported that the Natural Heritage Program has hired an eastern regional ecologist.

Public Comment

None

Final comments, Action Items, and Wrap-up

- Chris will send Paula information that summarizes what remains from Permuda are in DNCR's possession along with relevant reports.
- Keri will find out if there was tribal engagement related to the management of nearby Morris Landing, which the Coastal Federation owns.
- Paula will work with Reserve staff to produce a shoreline change (erosion) map of Permuda to inform future archaeology surveys.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20am