



**BELVILLE PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 3, 2026

Planning Board Members Present:

Scott Milligan, Chairman
Joe Boyd, Vice Chairman
Jonas Williams, Member
Kimberly Ganey-Phillips, Member
Dean St. John, Member
Theresa Heath, Member
Joe Cranford, Member

Planning Board Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Athina Williams, Town Manager
Sharon Niemann, Town Clerk
Chad Staradumsky, Town Planner
Daniel Terry, WithersRavenel, Planning Consultant

Others Present to Address the Board:

None

ITEMS #1 AND 2 – CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scott Milligan called the Planning Board Regular Meeting held at the temporary location at Brunswick Community College to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed all, and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A quorum was present.

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION – Mr. Joe Cranford **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Mr. Jonas Williams **SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Scott Milligan asked for a motion to approve the February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

ACTION – Mr. Jonas Williams **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Dean St. John **SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #5 – OLD BUSINESS



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Chairman Scott Milligan announced there is no OLD BUSINESS, and moved to ITEM #6.

ITEM #6 – NEW BUSINESS

6.a. Projects Update. Riverwalk Park and Multi-Use Path

Town Planner Chad Staradumsky introduced Daniel Terry, our planning consultant from WithersRavenel who is performing construction administration on our projects.

Daniel Terry directed the Planning Board to view the diagram for the Riverwalk extension and informed them that the purple line represents Phase I of the extension, and the contractor TD Eure has been working on the natural surface trail. They have been working on the path, clearing all the undergrowth and trees, and last week they began prepping the subsurface to receive the base course and final course of the trail, which is composed of processed granite, similar to the existing Belville Riverwalk path. The contractor TD Eure has completed driving the piles from the gazebo to the land area on this portion of the riverwalk. Discussion ensued regarding permitting.

Discussion ensued over parking where the trail ends, and where the boundary of the Belville property stops. Mr. Dean St. John asked about the remaining phases. Town Manager Athina Williams explained that we have to acquire more funds for the second and third phase, as the initial costs rose substantially since we received the funds in 2022. Town Manager Williams asked Mr. Terry to explain the emergency access. Daniel Terry confirmed that we will have an access point on River Road for emergencies in case someone is injured or needs assistance while walking on the Riverwalk Extension. It will be ten feet wide for easy access. Mr. Jonas Williams questioned the giant tree that was removed. Engineering consultant, Daniel Terry clarified there were two constraints near the large tree, the CAMA restrictive boundary, and on the other side was a sewer pump station. These constraints led us to the tree removal. While we initially earmarked the healthy and aesthetically desirable trees on the path, this one would have required another CAMA permit, which would have significantly delayed the project, and would have cost an additional \$25,000 to re-route the trail. Mr. Terry asserted that we are hoping Phase I will be completed around June. Chairman Scott Milligan thanked Mr. Terry for the update, and for joining our board this evening.

6.b. Transportation Update

Planner, Chad Staradumsky, continued with the Projects Update, notifying the board that we had the Ribbon Cutting for the opening of the Multi-Use Path in January, and now we will begin working on the 0.2-mile gap. Town Manager Athina Williams noted that when you acquire NCDOT funds, you have to get every stage of the project approved. Last week we submitted the Request for Letters of Interest (RFLOI) and when NCDOT approves that, we will request letters of interest for that project.

Ms. Williams apprised the board that she and Chad met with Pike Electric today to discuss the boring for electricity next to the Multi-Use Path to enable lighting and cameras. The approved section will be from Blackwell Road to Old River Road. Further down the path, we already have some electrical poles which will reduce the costs in that section. Daniel Terry has the electrical plan, which we will pass around. She also explained that the backhoe that was on the path earlier this week was for silt fence removal.



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Mr. Dean St. John asked about the NC133 crossing and entrance relocation. Ms. Williams indicated that the Request for Letters of Interest will include this project.

Ms. Williams explained that Adrienne Harrington was unable to be here this week, so she will give the Transportation Update at the next meeting. Ms. Harrington did want to express her thanks for the great response to the WMPO survey, and appreciates your efforts to get the word out, they received many more responses than usual.

6.c. Stormwater Update

Planner Chad Staradumsky indicated that he will be showing a 15-minute video about the Stormwater Feasibility Study, narrated by our WithersRavenel stormwater engineer, Amanda Hollingsworth. Town Manager Athina Williams stated that the study was just completed and was compiled over a two-year period. It was approved by the Board of Commissioners by resolution at our last meeting. The presentation detailed the process of assessing and collecting information, public input, and creating field maps. We used the Army Corps of Engineers modeling program with different levels of storm inundation to determine where the water is directed. The study included modeling, monitoring the flow of the stormwater, and collecting information on pipe sizes throughout the problem areas. All of these initiatives helped us to identify the direction of the flow of the water. Next, we conceptualized projects and selected five prioritized areas which could improve water flow through mitigation processes. Our next step was estimating costs associated with each area for mitigation. Ditch and drainage improvements are needed to provide relief to these areas, and some recommendations include installation of larger pipes.

One area, the pond on E. Wood Lane, was removed from the study, as improvements are needed immediately, and some items are already being improved. NCDOT was also helpful in helping relieve some of the blocked drainage during the study. Some of the pipes had not been cleared for some time.

Ms. Hollingsworth further explained the five prioritized areas, and proposed costs associated with each. The methodologies and plans were given to the town when the plan was finalized in January. The study will help the Town apply for grants and funding for implementation.

Athina Williams thanked the staff for their help and recognized Ian McLeod for his help in collecting information for the flooding and stormwater study. NCDOT was also helpful in clearing debris. We are going to apply for grants for the three highest priority areas. We are trying to get this 'shovel ready' so that we can apply for funds that are available. We submitted an application for a hazard mitigation grant, but additional studies were required. We are constantly working to obtain grants. Chairman Scott Milligan asked if any of these projects have been funded yet. They have not been at this time.

Chad Staradumsky mentioned our next meeting will be April 13th.

Town Manager Athina Williams wanted to cover one more item:

A Shoreline Stabilization Study was done for the existing Riverwalk. There are five or six areas that need to be addressed from erosion. The first one was near the Duke Energy Pavilion. The riprap was added, and gutters were installed on the pavilion to re-route the water. Under the observation deck, we



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have a couple of pilings that need to be addressed. So, since our contractor TD Eure is on site, we are going to ask them to assess these areas and see what they can repair while they are here.

We also have an area where roots of trees are eroding near the Rowing Club boat storage area, which we need to address. As we reconfigure the park, all of these things need to be taken into consideration. Drew Damon at Cape Fear Engineering is the one addressing the Shoreline Stabilization Study and can answer any questions you may have.

Belville Riverwalk Park will be closed March 8 through 10th for a special event. We will be notifying the public through social media and signs.

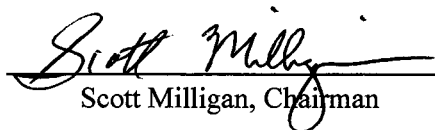
Town Manager Athina Williams reminded the board that the Department of Motor Vehicles is having a ribbon cutting tomorrow, if any of you want to come. Kimberly Ganey-Phillips confirmed that this new Department of Motor Vehicles in Belville has great service and there are no lines, you can be in and out in a matter of minutes.

ITEM #7 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION – Mr. Jonas Williams **MADE THE MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dean St. John **SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Minutes Compiled by Sharon A. Niemann

SIGNED:



Scott Milligan, Chairman



ATTEST:



Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk