

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Capitola City Hall, Community Room
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010



Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law
Vice Chair: Michael Maroney
Commissioners: Mayor Clarke, Dennis Norton
Staff Representative: Erika Senyk

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Chair Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Clarke, Dennis Norton, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Michael Maroney

Absent: None

City Staff Present: Erika Senyk (Environmental Projects Manager), Chief Sarah Ryan

2. Swearing in of new Commissioners

Commissioner Norton was sworn in by City staff.

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Public Oral and Written Communications

No oral or written communications were made by members of the public at the meeting.

5. Staff Comments

None.

6. February 19, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

Motion to approve the February 19, 2025 minutes: Vice Chair Maroney

Seconded: Chair Beritzhoff-Law

Motion passed 4-0-0

7. General Business

A. Prohibited Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products

Recommended Action: Receive a presentation from the Public Health Department of the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency regarding the County Board of Supervisors' ordinance amending Santa Cruz County Code Ch. 5.60 to prohibit the sale of filtered tobacco products; and provide a recommendation to the Capitola City Council on whether to adopt a similar ordinance in Capitola.

The Commission received a presentation by representatives from the Santa Cruz County Public Health Department of HSA, Save Our Shores, and the Ciggy Board creator.

Motion to recommend that City Council adopt a similar ordinance to Santa Cruz County's Ordinance No. 5461, prohibiting the sale of filtered tobacco products within the City of Capitola: Commissioner Norton
Seconded: Mayor Clarke
Motion passed 4-0-0

B. Regular Meeting Schedule

Recommended Action: Approve the Commission's 2025 regular meeting schedule.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager, presented the staff report.

Motion to approve the 2025 regular meeting schedule: Vice Chair Maroney
Seconded: Chair Beritzhoff-Law
Motion passed 4-0-0

C. 2025 COE Workplan

Recommended Action: Discuss and approve a list of COE goals for calendar year 2025.

The Commission discussed potential goals for calendar year 2025, including continuing review of the City's Climate Action Plan, continuing to pursue projects related to Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch maintenance and native plant restoration, and supporting community preparedness for sea level rise and climate vulnerability.

Commissioner Norton stated his support for the Commission to continue reviewing the Climate Action Plan, while keeping sea level rise at the forefront of future discussions, and to consult with community experts regarding the impacts of sea level rise on Capitola.

Vice Chair Maroney stated his support for continuing the Commission's 2024 goals of reviewing the Climate Action Plan and pursuing projects related to Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch maintenance and native plant restoration into calendar year 2025.

The Commission continued the discussion of the 2025 COE Workplan to the April 16th, 2025 regular COE meeting.

8. Items for Future Agenda

The Commission requested that the following item be agendaized for the April 16th, 2025 meeting:

- 2025 COE Workplan

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on April 16th, 2025.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Senyk', written over a horizontal line.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MBL', written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair