

From: Marshall Labadie <mlabadie@highlandbeach.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 11:39 AM
To: Ingrid Allen <iallen@highlandbeach.us>
Subject: Natural Resource Advisory Board: Powers and Duties

Good Morning:

As you have made me aware, the Natural Resource Advisory Board wishes to discuss its powers and duties in a meeting pursuant to the attached documents. If the Chair wishes to proceed with this discussion independently, without specific direction from the Town Commission, I would generally be inclined to acquiesce at this time to maintain harmony. Upon review, I find that the existing ordinance (Sec. 2-140) provides the Board with ample authority to engage in a wide range of environmental activities, provided that such activities are authorized by the Town Commission. However, the proposed changes appear to grant the Board greater autonomy to pursue initiatives and engage with outside organizations without clear Commission oversight or direction.

While I appreciate the Board's enthusiasm and intent, I believe these expanded powers could result in several challenges. Specifically, increased independence may require additional staff time and budgetary resources, and it could complicate efforts to monitor board member activities—particularly when they involve external commitments or interactions. Given our prior experiences, where misalignment between board activities and the Town Commission's priorities led to significant issues, it would be prudent to ensure that proper oversight mechanisms remain in place. This would help avoid potential conflicts and ensure alignment with the Town's overall objectives and the policies of our elected officials. I look forward to further discussion on this matter and am happy to provide additional input as needed.

Feel free to share this email with the board.



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