



**MINUTES
OF THE WHITE LAKE
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

September 25, 2025

The White Lake Recreation Advisory Committee met for its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 1879 White Lake Drive, White Lake, North Carolina. Those present were Commissioner Terri Hawley, Town Clerk Tina Merritt-Smith, Committee Member Erin Seiling, Committee Member Susan Guy, Committee Member Cathy Kinlaw, and Committee Member Ed McLean.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Erin Seiling welcomed committee members and called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

The invocation was spoken by Chairperson E. Seiling.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson E. Seiling led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the August 28, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. E. McLean moved to approve the minutes as recorded. S. Guy seconded the motion. The vote unanimously

carried.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Merritt-Smith and T. Hawley shared that Campbell Oil Company's Wam Squam convenience store and gas station is hosting a Pink-Out Fun Run on the multi-use path on Saturday, October 24, 2025. Kaitlyn Thornton is the contact person.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

The Advisory Board members reviewed the following recommended changes to the Bylaws.

- a. (Article III, Section 1) to read:

The regular meeting of the membership of the Committee shall be held **at least quarterly**, determined by the Board, at the White Lake Town Hall or other designated and advertised location deemed by the consensus of the Committee.

- b. (Article III, Section 2) to read:

Meetings will be held in-person and in-person attendance will be encouraged. A Zoom option will be offered to Board Members unable to physically attend. The Board will allow remote quorum, participation, and voting.

C. Kinlaw moved to approve the Bylaw changes. The motion was seconded by E. McLean. The motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Wetlands Question to NCDOT

T. Hawley and T. Merritt-Smith reported that sections of the future multi-use path between Turtle Cove and the Scotchman may no longer qualify for wetlands designations. If so, no bridges will be necessary to complete that portion of the path, resulting in less costs for the project. The NC Department of Transportation will investigate the issue.

- b. Elizabethtown-White Lake Chamber of Commerce Calendar

Commissioner Hawley shared that in a conversation with Chamber of Commerce Director Amy Hudson, anyone who is a member of the Chamber may add activities to the Calendar of Events. As the representative of the White Lake Friends, Inc. on the Chamber membership list, C. Kinlaw agreed to add events planned by the Recreation Advisory Board to the Chamber's calendar.

c. White Lake Community Calendar

In open discussion, T. Hawley, website manager for the White Lake Friends, Inc., agreed to create a White Lake Community Calendar as a separate page on the White Lake Friends website, and post events planned by the Town of White Lake and the Recreation Advisory Board.

S. Guy recommended including printed publications with posters, billboard, and handouts. T. Hawley suggested that a QR code, (that links to the online calendar), be included on the printed documents. This will ensure that the most accurate information is always available to the public. Printed information can be distributed in hotel rooms, at local eateries, and in business offices around the Lake.

OPEN FORUM

- a. Commissioner Hawley announced the upcoming following events:
October 14, 2025 – 8:30 AM until Noon, Tourism Workshop by Uplift Tourism at Bladen Community College.
- b. October 18, 2025 – Great Trails State Scavenger Hunt at White Lake.
Ten volunteers are needed to manage ten stations between Camp Clearwater and the Town offices. T. Merritt-Smith recommended exhibit booths for both the Advisory Board and the White Lake Friends on the front lawn of the Town office building. Identifying banners or posters are recommended.
- c. T. Hawley was approached by an individual who is hoping to start a running club at White Lake. She would like to present her idea to the Advisory Board at the October meeting.
- d. Chair E. Seiling shared the list of proposed activities generated from the Zoom open discussion session on September 11, 2025.

NEXT MEETING

October 23, 2025, 6 PM, 1879 White Lake Drive, White Lake, NC

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Advisory Board Member S. Guy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Advisory Board Member E. McLean seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by Outdoor Recreation Advisory Board Secretary:

Cathy F. Kinlaw

Cathy F. Kinlaw

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Approved by

AGENDA

Recreation Advisory Board

Town of White Lake

6 PM

September 25, 2025

- **Opening and Call to Order 6 PM**
- **Invocation**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2025 Meeting
2. Staff Update
3. Amendments to bylaws
 - a. (Article III, Section 1) to read: The regular meeting of the membership of the Committee shall be held **at least quarterly**, determined by the Board, at the White Lake Town Hall or other designated and advertised location deemed by the consensus of the Committee.
 - b. (Article III, Section 2) to read: Meetings will be held in-person and in-person attendance is encouraged. A Zoom option will be offered to Board members unable to physically attend. The Board will allow remote quorum, participation, and voting.
4. New Business
 - a. Wetlands question to NCDOT
 - b. Elizabethtown-White Lake Chamber of Commerce Calendar
 - c. White Lake Community Calendar
5. Open Forum
6. Adjourn

Next Meeting October 23, 2025



DRAFT

**MINUTES
OF THE WHITE LAKE
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

August 28, 2025

The White Lake Recreation Advisory Committee met for its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 1879 White Lake Drive, White Lake, North Carolina. Those present were Commissioner Terri Hawley, Town Administrator Sean Martin, Committee Member Erin Seiling, Committee Member Sandy Ammons, Committee Member Cathy Kinlaw, and Committee Member Ed McLean.

CALL TO ORDER

Advisory Board Chairperson Erin Seiling welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

The invocation was spoken by Chairperson E. Seiling.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson E. Seiling led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

The agenda was reviewed by Chairperson E. Seiling and accepted by the membership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairperson S. Ammons made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 24th, 2025 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee Member C. Kinlaw and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BYLAWS

Advisory Board Member E. McLean moved to approve the recommended change to the proposed bylaws as described in the July 24th, 2025 minutes:

Article I, Section 1. shall read "The name of the organization shall be the White Lake Recreation Advisory Board." The motion was seconded by S. Ammons and the vote unanimously carried the motion.

White Lake Town Administrator Sean Martin suggested the committee members review Article III, Sections 2 and 3 of the Bylaws which do not clearly give persons attending a meeting by Zoom the right to vote. Town Administrator Martin remarked that mandatory face-to-face attendance may not be a requirement of *unelected* board members and recommended submitting the request to offer a Zoom meeting option to the Town Council.

S. Ammons moved to retract the original motion and include a recommended Bylaw change to read as follows:

"Members are requested to attend face-to-face meetings. A Zoom option will be provided giving voting rights and enabling a quorum by virtual attendance." E. McLean seconded the motion and the change was unanimously carried.

STAFF UPDATE

Town Administrator Martin encouraged Advisory Board members to visit the calendar of events at uplifttourism.com and engage in the activities and workshops offered. Uplift affiliate Grace Lawrence expressed interest in the White Lake Recreation Advisory Board and offered to provide resources and support.

Martin will be attending the Outdoor Economy Conference in September. He will meet with engineers and consultants about moving forward with the multi-use path.

Palmer McIntyre with the Great Trails State Coalition reported to Martin that eastern North Carolina has received 2.6M in grant awards. In conversations with engineers with the Coalition, Martin reported that Phases Two and Three of the multi-use path will cost

approximately \$400K. (Phase Two is from Turtle Cove to the Marina. Phase Three is from the Marina to the Scotchman).

Commissioner T. Hawley remarked that the uplifttourism.com website has a library of archived presentations and webinars available. She suggested visiting the Outdoor NC Conference website and searching for workshops that board members may attend. T. Hawley encouraged board members to visit the websites of the Mountains to Sea Trails and the Great Trails State Coalition website where board members can register for webinars, search for events, and gather resources.

NEW BUSINESS

E. Seiling recently met with the CORE Grant team. They are in conversations with the Department of Transportation and are speculating that the Motility Grant may be a funding source for the multi-use path. It is also recommended that we know our DOT representatives, and when appropriate, invite them to meetings. E. Seiling has received a list of grants opportunities that she will share with the Advisory Board.

E. Seiling also suggested a partnership with the White Lake Friends to host a scavenger hunt around White Lake on October 18th, 2025. A motion was made by C. Kinlaw to partner with the White Lake Friends to host a Scavenger Hunt on October 18, 2025. S. Ammons seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

In the previous meeting, the Advisory Board members created a list of possible recreational events. E. Seiling suggested an ongoing monthly campaign called Second Saturdays that sponsors a different activity each month. She recommended planning a 2026 calendar of events. Town Administrator S. Martin indicated that each individual activity may require Town Board approval. He will investigate the issue and provide a procedural standard for the Advisory Board. When asked if there were funds available to the Advisory Board for monthly activities, S. Martin indicated that no funds are budgeted; however, funds could possibly be considered by the Town Board.

Commissioner Hawley recommended asking Lake Church to allow Yoga classes on the waterfront. Because approaching Lake Church through the Recreation Advisory Board will require approval of the Town Board, it was suggested that the White Lake Friends contact Lake Church. S. Ammons recommended securing an outside certified instructor who charges a nominal fee and manages issues such as liability.

S. Martin stated that informal conversations between members of the Advisory Board are encouraged to develop the Calendar of Events; however, any resulting plans must be approved in a regular meeting and submitted to the Town Board for final approval. The Advisory Board members will develop a tentative calendar by communicating via informal meetings, texts, emails, Google Docs, and Zoom before the next meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Hawley suggested that the Advisory Board review the White Lake Pedestrian Transportation Plan (completed in 2010 by the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, NCDOT), as the Advisory Board moves forward. She will send a link to the document to S. Martin and the Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Advisory Board Member S. Ammons made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Advisory Board Member E. McLean seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by Recreation Advisory Board Secretary:

Cathy F. Kinlaw

Approved by

White Lake RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS

COPY

Article I

Name & Purpose:

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the White Lake Recreation Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will offer insights, recommendations, and support to help the organization achieve its goals. This Committee was established by the Town Board of Commissioners in July 2025. The Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity only and shall have no independent authority to obligate the Town, expend Town funds, or direct Town staff. The Advisory Board, and these ByLaws, are at all times subject to White Lake Code of Ordinances #2025-01 Chapter 35: Advisory Boards. In the event of a conflict between these ByLaws and the Town Code, the Code shall control.

Section 2. The purpose and scope of the activities of this Board shall be the following:

- To advocate for programs that promote recreation activities including biking, walking, and projects that provide safe and convenient recreational opportunities around White Lake.
- To seek grant opportunities and recommendations for the completion of a trail around the lake.
- To form a visible, vocal, and effective coalition of citizens to advocate for recreation on and around White Lake.
- To support bicycle and pedestrian-friendly legislation through the Great Trails State Coalition.
- To advocate for trails throughout White Lake, including signage highlighting the natural and cultural history of our town.
- To seek grant opportunities for projects and to collaborate with Town staff to complete grant applications.
- To promote livable communities and lifestyles by offering alternatives to motorized vehicle dependence.
- To represent the community and to reflect the desires of the residents of White Lake, in the event the Town acquires property for other recreation facilities.
- To identify possible public use/public access areas and open spaces, and opportunities for the Town to pursue public ownership.

Section 3. The duties of the Advisory Board are to represent the interests of residents and guests, to provide programs and proposed projects, to solicit input and ideas from

the public, to expand community-based recreational programs, to foster physical activity, and to support overall well-being.

Article II

Membership

Section 1. The Board shall be made up of a cross-section of White Lake property owners or others who demonstrate a desire to help and a strong commitment to the community. Effective July 8, 2025, membership of the White Lake Recreation Advisory Board shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Town Board of Commissioners.

Section 2. All members of this Board shall serve a two-year term, beginning July 8 and terminating June 30 of the second calendar year, or at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners. Initial appointments to be on staggered terms pursuant to Town Code. Members serve at the will of the Board of Commissioners and may be removed for cause, including but not limited to violation of Town ethics policies, conflict of interest, misconduct, or neglect of duty.

Section 3. Any member who misses four (4) meetings in a calendar year shall become ineligible to continue serving on the Committee, at which time the Chairman of the Board shall notify the Town Board about the member's ineligibility. The Town Board will appoint a replacement member or may reappoint the member who has become ineligible due to extenuating circumstances. Any member may nullify one absence per calendar year by his or her attendance at one (1) subcommittee meeting or other appointed service on behalf of the Committee.

Article III

Meetings

Section 1. The regular meeting of the membership of the Committee shall be held at least quarterly, determined by the Board, at the White Lake Town Hall or other designated and advertised location deemed by the consensus of the Committee. All meetings shall comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law (N.C.G.S. Chapter 143, Article 33C) and Public Records Law (N.C.G.S. Chapter 132).

Section 2.

Meetings will be held in-person, and in-person attendance is encouraged. A virtual option will be offered to Board members unable to physically attend. The Board will allow remote quorum, participation, and voting.

Section 3. A majority of the appointed members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at any regular meeting of the Board. In the absence of a quorum at any regularly scheduled meeting, the members present shall function as a full subcommittee, electing an interim chair, if necessary. If the number of members present is 1/3 or greater of the full Board, the agenda for the meeting will be followed, and any recommendations of this full subcommittee shall be presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the number present is less than 1/3, the members may, if they wish, vote to follow the agenda or postpone the agenda to the next regular meeting.

Section 4. Only the appointed members shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board. However, the public is welcome and their input is invited.

Article IV

Officers

Section 1. The members of the Board shall elect from their membership the following offices at the July meeting (August Meeting in 2025):

A: Chairman

B: Vice-Chairman

C: Secretary

Section 2. The terms of office for all officers shall be one year, beginning at the first regular Advisory Board meeting of the year and terminating at the last regular Board meeting of the year, or until their successors are elected at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Section 3. Any officer may be re-elected for the same office.

Section 4. A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board at any regular meeting. A new member must be presented to and voted on by the Board of Commissioners before actively serving.

Section 5. Duties

Chairman

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Advisory Board and conduct all meetings of the Board. The Chairman shall appoint subcommittees as appropriate and deemed necessary by the Board, and notify the Board of such appointments.

Vice-Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman or in the event of his or her inability to act, the Vice-Chairman shall exercise all powers and duties of the Chairman.

Secretary

The secretary will keep minutes of meetings, create the agenda, and send the agenda to the Town Clerk, at least one week prior to the next meeting. Also, the secretary will type up recommendations of the Advisory Board and deliver to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the Town Board agenda packet at least one week prior to the next Town Board meeting,

which meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The secretary shall also ensure that an annual written report of Advisory Board's activities and recommendations is prepared and submitted to the Town Clerk.

Article V

Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by the two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting at any regular meeting of the Board after notice of such proposals for an amendment has been given to all members as provided in these bylaws. All such amendments shall be subject to approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 2. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to all members of the Board not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting at which such amendments are to be considered.

Article VI

Rules of Procedure

Section 1. All meetings of the Board shall be conducted informally unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

Section 2. Agenda items are to be determined by priorities as set by the full Board. All requests from the Board of Commissioners will be honored.

Article VII

Rights & Privileges

Section 1. No individual member shall possess any right, interest, or privilege that may be transferable by that member or which shall continue in any manner if the membership of such individual member ceases.

This, 14 day of October, 2025.

Advisory Board Chair

By: An Seiv

Mayor of White Lake

By: [Signature]

9/16/25, 4:09 PM

Gmail - White Lake



Erin Seiling <eeseiling@gmail.com>

White Lake

Clark, Kenneth L <kclark2@ncdot.gov>

Mon, Sep 15, 2025 at 9:59 AM

To: Erin Seiling <eeseiling@gmail.com>, Terri Hawley <thawley022@gmail.com>

Cc: "Gelezinsky, Barry W" <bwegelezinsky@ncdot.gov>

Good Morning:

If this area is no longer deemed wetlands, then you can eliminate the structure and build by placing fill in the 'wetlands' and building the path as you normally would anywhere else. I took the information you provided last week and asked our environmental staff to review the location for the purpose of making the determination as to how this area would now qualify under the new rules. Hopefully, it will no longer be considered a wetland and you can proceed with building 'normal'. If it is still deemed as a wetland, then it could still be filled (without going on a structure) but there could be mitigation costs. If this does end up being the case, your engineer will need to evaluate which is more cost effective – filling the edge of the wetlands and paying the mitigation costs or moving the path closer to US 701 using some type of raised island for separation. As soon as we hear back from our environmental team, we will pass the information along so that you can decide how you wish to proceed.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

I'm just following up here. I read an article today that said the NC Environmental Resources Commission just voted to align the state definition of wetlands with the federal definition.

I'm sure this has changed many things on your end and you are likely still investigating the full impact of this change.

What I'm reading makes it seem like wetlands will be defined as having continuous surface connection of permanent navigable waters. I think the federal definition of navigable waters relates to interstate commerce, in which case, White Lake would not qualify? Meaning, the wetlands along 701 are no longer considered wetlands?

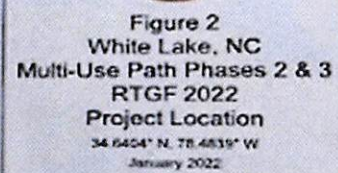
I don't want to seem like I am advocating for wetland destruction, as this area still serves an important ecological role, even if they aren't legally considered wetlands. However, if there is a window of opportunity to install the MUT through this area with minimal regulatory hoops to jump through - we should move forward while we can. The previous plan with the Boardwalk indicated there would be "minimal impact" to the wetland due to the boardwalk being barely on the edge of the area considered wetland. I am wondering if this new ruling means the area is no longer considered wetland, as that would allow the Town to move forward without additional wetland considerations.

Thanks in advance!

Erin

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?ik=723fcec273&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f:1843338719453606911&simpl=msg-f:1843338719453606911>

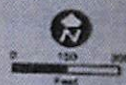
1/4



January 2022

Legend

-  Point of Interest
 Multi-Use Path Phase 2
 Multi-Use Path Phase 3
 Future Phases
 Existing Path
 US Route
 Street
 Stream
 Lake/Pond
 Parcel
 Town Limit
 ELY



Wooten

[illegible]



Figure 3
White Lake, NC
Multi-Use Path Phases 2 & 3
USEDA 2022
Wetlands and Flood Zones*

the American Company, 15/121, Quebec, Canada, P.Q. 4K6.

Legend

-  Point of Interest
 Multi-Use Path Phase 2
 Multi-Use Path Phase 3
 Future Phases
 Existing Path
 US Route
 Street
 Stream
 Lake/Pond
 Parcel
 Town Limit
 ETL
 NW Wetlands



Wooten

[illegible]

Map Id	Soil Type
Ce	Centenary sand
Cr	Croatan muck, rarely flooded
KeA	Kenansville sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
KuB	Kureb sand, 1 to 8 percent slopes
LaB	Lakeland sand, 1 to 7 percent slopes
LeA	Leon sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
Ly	Lynn Haven and Torhunta soils
Pa	Panlico muck, rarely flooded
Tr	Torhunta mucky sandy loam
Ud	Udorthents, loamy
W	Water
WgB	Wakulla sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Wo	Woodington loamy sand

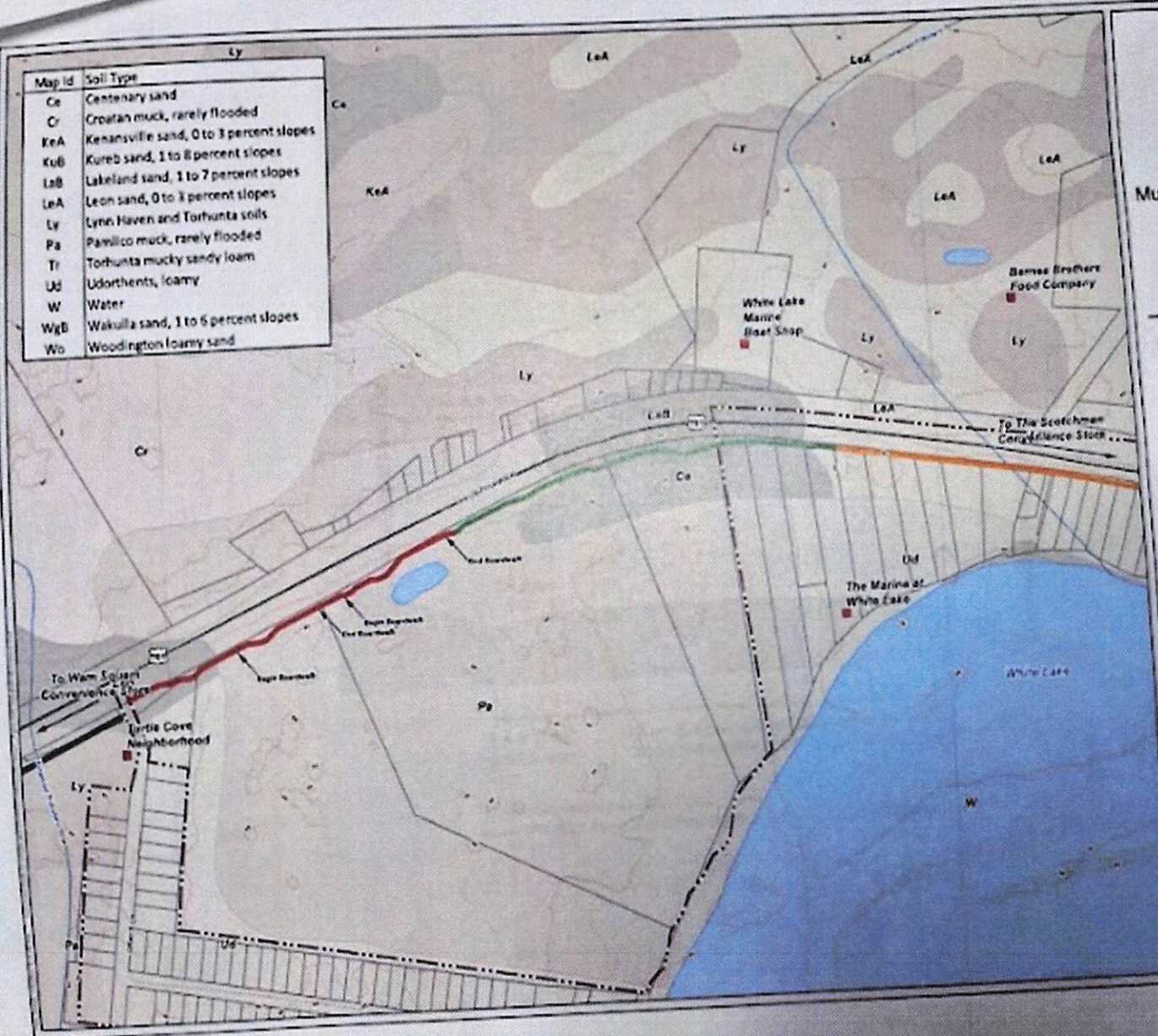
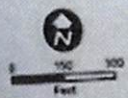



Figure 4
White Lake, NC
Multi-Use Path Phases 2 & 3
USEDA 2022
Soils and Topography
 34.6404° N, 78.4530° W
 January 2022
 The Wooten Company, LLC, Madison County

- Legend**
- Point of Interest
 - Multi-Use Path Phase 2
 - Multi-Use Path Phase 3
 - Future Phases
 - Existing Path
 - US Route
 - Street
 - Stream
 - Lake/Pond
 - Parcel
 - Town Limit
 - ETJ



Wooten

The Wooten Company makes every effort to produce and publish the best maps using the most current and accurate available information. However, the maps are made by surveying and other means and are subject to error. The maps are made by surveying and other means and are subject to error. The maps are made by surveying and other means and are subject to error.