

Conservation/Aesthetics Report January 2010

Signs

59% of the residents who responded to the sign survey mailed in February supported petitioning the county to revise the current sign regulations on Casey Key. Specifically, we were asking that the following signs be prohibited: for sale, for rent, flyers and /or flyer containers, realtors, architects, builders, tradesmen and advertising. Donna Thompson reviewed our request for a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment relating to signs on Casey Key with the Zoning Administrator and the Office of the County Attorney. Since signs are a form of speech protected by the Constitution the County may regulate placement of a sign, length of time it can be up but cannot control content except for obscenities. Although we can proceed, it would not only be costly (approximately \$3,500 for the fee and advertising for the public hearing notices) but in all likelihood would not be supported by the Zoning Board. The county suggested that we proceed with tighter restrictions on signs as an alternative.

Turtles

A Loggerhead turtle laid this year's final nest on August 23rd on Casey Key. This year the total number of Loggerhead nests was down and the number of Green turtle nests was up. This season the first Kemps Ridley sea turtle nest to be seen since 1999 was laid in our area. Although Mote has reported that Loggerhead nests are down more hatchlings are reaching the sea because of fewer storms. Casey Key continues to have a good record because our residents keep beaches turtle friendly as hatchlings emerge from the sand and head to the water.