

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The regular meeting of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) was held on Thursday, December 13, 2007 in the Conference Room at Clemson University Extension Office at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steve Riley (Chair)
Ms. Gloria Cartwright (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Pete Dawson
Ms. Dorothy Giddens
Mr. York Glover
Mr. Malcolm Goodridge
Mr. Ed Pappas
Mr. Jacob Preston
Mr. Ray Tudor
Mr. Joseph Vercellotti

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Selena Brown

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Skeet Von Harten, Vice-Chair, County Council

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. John Miller, PALS Director
Mr. Dan Ahern, Stormwater Management
Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Planning Director
Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner
Ms. Judy Nash Timmer, Development Review Planner
Ms. Charlotte Hiles, Planning Assistant
Mr. Frederick Lewis, Mr. Glenn Stanford, Mr. Slade Gleaton - Trust for Public Land (TPL)

GUEST PRESENT:

Ms. Andrea Malloy, Coastal Conservation League

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Riley called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Chairman Riley introduced new Board member, Mr. Joe Vercellotti, appointed November 19, 2007 and representing District 3, the south end of Hilton Head Island.

Chairman Riley asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and one item to be added for brief discussion will be the scheduling of the January 2008 Retreat. The Board was advised that a citizen may attend to speak as well.

Chairman Riley asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the November 8, 2007 Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Ray Tudor made a motion and Mr. York Glover seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the November 8, 2007 Board meeting.
Motion carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Board members were asked to check calendars for January 17, 2008 for the Retreat discussed at last meeting. The purpose of the Retreat being outside of the regular meeting schedule, would allow a full day if needed to review the Board's process and to discuss priorities pertaining to properties and the future. The Board was asked to respond to Charlotte to confirm date and Spring Island will be host location.

The subject of the TPL Contract and the proposed change fee schedule was addressed and Chairman Riley stated for the record, the Board does not negotiate fee structure or contract – TPL works for and reports to the County Council and the Council has appointed Tony Criscitiello as liaison. The recent press coverage had raised questions on understanding the process of the gift program and as well provision for maintenance program and funding program and what role the Board plays in this process. Slade mentioned press was not correct in reporting and explained gift program and the administration of the gift program and with the rise in administrative costs and workload of projects, TPL had requested to retain a larger amount of the gift amount obtained.

Mr. Van Harten informed Board members that County Council did not have any complaints of TPL. The Council wanted to look further into the gift back program and decided to discuss further in January.

The Board decided to add the items of gift program, funding and maintaining properties to the Retreat agenda in January 2008.

Mr. Slade Gleaton gave a Year-End Update presentation to the Board addressing the program and accomplishments since 2000. Both Mr. Frederick Lewis and Mr. Glenn Stanford highlighted 2007 projects and updated the Board on year-end property closings. Each Board member was given a PowerPoint hand-out and TPL will show a PowerPoint presentation at the January 2008 Retreat.

The Board thanked TPL for their work and the presentation given.

After an open discussion on several items, the following will be discussed at length at the January 2008 Retreat:

- -timing for drawing down the next chunk of money from the \$50M authorized by the voters
- -begin discussion of timing and potential amount of next bond referendum
- -status of Friends of the Park proposal
- -maintenance of County owned properties
- -assuring compliance with easements and deed restrictions on properties where ownership is retained by others

Mr. Tony Criscitiello introduced Mr. Dan Ahern, new Stormwater Management, to the Board.

Mr. Riley congratulated Board Member, Mr. Preston, for his local celebrity as being featured in Delta's Sky Magazine, representing his role as potter and 'general character of Bluffton'.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Riley entertained a motion by Mr. Malcolm Goodridge, seconded by Mr. Ray Tudor, to adjourn the Open Session at 4:03 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The vote was unanimous to enter into Executive Session.**

The Board re-entered Open Session at 4:30 p.m.

There were no items to be presented to Land Management Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Riley entertained a motion at 4:30 p.m. from Mr. Peter Dawson, seconded by Mr. Ray Tudor, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Submitted by: Charlotte Hiles, Planning Assistant

Approved: _____
Steve Riley, Chairman, Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land
Preservation Board

Date: _____