

MINUTES
RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2020

Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Community Room
6 Snake Road, Okatie, South Carolina 29909

The electronic and print media duly notified in
accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Committee Chairman Michael Mathews, Committee Vice-Chairman Beek Webb, Art Baer, Bob Bender, Terry Hill, Doug Koop, Walter Mack, Gail O’Kane, Dorothy Scanlin, Ryan Stefonick

Absent: None

County
Council: Alice Howard, York Glover

Staff: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner; Thomas J. Keaveny II, County Attorney; Kurt Taylor, Assistant County Attorney; Kristin Williams, Executive Director BCOLT; Caylor Romines, BCOLT; Barbara Holmes, BCOLT

Visitors: Bill Davies, Guest Speaker for Liberty Trail

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Baer, seconded by Ms. O’Kane to approve the agenda as presented. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Webb, Mr. Baer, Mr. Bender, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Mack, Ms. O’Kane, Ms. Scanlin, and Mr. Stefonick. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 12, 2019

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Baer to approve the minutes from December 12, 2019 as amended. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Webb, Mr. Baer,

Mr. Bender, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Mack, Ms. O’Kane, Ms. Scanlin, and Mr. Stefonick. The motion passed.

PRESENTATION

A. Liberty Trail Presentation.

A presentation was made by Mr. Bill Davies about the Liberty Trail. The Liberty Trail would like to preserve 44,000 acres of Revolutionary War battlegrounds throughout South Carolina to promote South Carolina’s important participation in our nation’s history. This heritage tourism initiative has already preserved 1,400 acres with the American Battleground Trust being a major fundraiser. The idea of this trail will be a series of rural stops around the state from the coast to the mountains.

ACTION ITEMS

B. RCLP Board 2020 Meeting Schedule.

Ms. Amanda Flake presented the RCLP Board 2020 Meeting Schedule. The first half of the year, from January until June, the Board will meet at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Conference Room on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm. During the December Board meeting it was decided that the Board would like to meet at Crystal Lake for the second half of the year, from July until December. Ms. Flake reported that the Crystal Lake Park Building was available on the 2nd Thursday of each month but the time would have to change to 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm. Therefore the board decided to vote on this calendar change at the Retreat in February.

C. RCLPB Annual Report.

Ms. Barbara Holmes presented an overview of the 2019 Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program Board report. She discussed how the RCLP Program worked on 62 projects this year with 8 projects brought forward to the Board, 2 projects recommended by the Board, and 1 project approved and closed in 2019. That project was Bailey Memorial Park which was 54 acres in Bluffton. Ms. Holmes also stated that RCLP Program Ordinance and RCLP Board Ordinance were adopted in 2019 as well as the revision of the ranking sheets.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Baer, seconded by Ms. Scanlin to approve the 2019 Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program Board Report and to recommend it to the Natural Resources Committee and County Council for approval. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Webb, Mr. Baer, Mr. Bender, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Mack, Ms. O’Kane, Ms. Scanlin, and Mr. Stefonick. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D. Beach City Road Parcels Update.

Ms. Flake informed that Board that due to the Beach City Road parcels being on the National Historic Register, it was going to limit what could be done on those properties as it pertains to development. Therefore, Beaufort County and the Town of Hilton Head are working with St. James Church to find another suitable place to move their church within historic Mitchellville. Which means that the Beach City Road parcels will remain in the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program inventory.

E. 2020 RCLP Retreat update.

Chairman Mathews discussed the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program Board Retreat that will be held at the Crystal Lake Park Building on Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm. The focus of the retreat will be on the updates and changes to the RCLP Ordinances, the Greenprint process, and a passive park update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion of proposed purchase of property and issues incident thereto (property 2020A) – *Barbara G. Holmes, Beaufort County Open Land Trust*

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Baer, seconded by Vice-Chairman Webb to approve to go into Executive Session. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Webb, Mr. Baer, Mr. Bender, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Mack, Ms. O’Kane, Ms. Scanlin, and Mr. Stefonick. The motion passed.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman Webb, seconded by Mr. Baer, to forward Project 2020A and send it to the Natural Resources Committee for approval of acquisition as presented in Executive Session. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Webb, Mr. Baer, Mr. Bender, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Mack, Ms. O’Kane, Ms. Scanlin, and Mr. Stefonick. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: It was moved by Ms. O’Kane, seconded by Mr. Hill to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Webb, Mr. Baer, Mr. Bender, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Mack, Ms. O’Kane, Ms. Scanlin, and Mr. Stefonick. The motion passed.

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Beaufort County Community Development
Natural Resources Planner

Approved: _____
Mike Mathews, Chairman
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board

Date: _____