

**MINUTES
RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

January 14, 2021

Webex/Crystal Lake Park Building

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Michael Mathews, Vice-Chairman Walter Mack, Art Baer, John Maffei, Chris Marsh, Gail O’Kane, Ryan Stefonick, Beek Webb

Absent: Terry Hill

County
Council: Alice Howard, York Glover

Staff: Rob Merchant, Interim Planning Director; Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Visitors: Kate Schaefer, BCOLT Director of Land Protection;

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mathews called the meeting to order at 2:33 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. Maffei, seconded by Ms. O’Kane to approve the agenda as presented. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marsh, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 10, 2020

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Webb to approve the minutes with corrections from December 10, 2020. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marsh, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Greenprint Update

Chairman Mathews said that the subcommittee received the draft Greenprint from Design Workshop, reviewed it, and sent comments back at the end of December. Mr. Merchant thanked the subcommittee for all the hard work. Based off of the recommendations of the subcommittee, Mr. Merchant had conversations with members of Design Workshop to clean up the maps and make the language clearer. The goal was to have the draft ready by the February Board meeting for review and adoption at the March Board meeting.

Application Process

Ms. Flake provided a report that detailed applications for the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program that were received by the Community Development Department but not recommended for review by the Board. This was because these projects did not meet the intent or focus of the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program. Ms. Schafer stated that the application process was still new and that modifications to the application would occur as staff becomes more experienced with this process.

2020 RCLP Annual Report

Ms. Schaefer presented the 2020 Rural and Critical Land Preservation Annual Report. Three main projects closed in 2020; Pineview (fee simple, 108 acres), Longwood (purchase of development rights, conservation easement, 227 acres), and Port Royal Island Battlefield (fee simple, purchase of development rights, conservation easement, restrictive easement with Department of Defense, 14 acres). Both the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program Ordinance and Board Ordinance had changes and updates during 2020. Also, the application process was added to the Program. The 2018 Bond Referendum was issued, the Greenprint was being updated, and a new Request for Proposal was sent out to select a new consultant for the Program. Ms. Schaefer stated that the Program goals for 2021 were to fine tune the Greenprint, streamline the application process, get members out on site, and increase community partnerships.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Baer, seconded by Ms. O’Kane to approve to the 2020 Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program Annual Report as presented. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marsh, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mr. Maffei to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 pm. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marsh, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. 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: _____