

**MINUTES
RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

April 8, 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, Gail O’Kane, Beek Webb, Ryan Stefonick

Absent: Chris Marsh

County
Council: Alice Howard, York Glover

Staff: Eric Greenway, Interim County Administrator; Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Visitors: Kate Schaefer, BCOLT Director of Land Protection; Kristin Williams, BCOLT Executive Director; Mary Ryan Krieger, MCAS Air Station; Ahmad Ward, Historic Mitchellville Freedom Park Executive Director; Mac Bennet, new RCLP Board member

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Kate Schaefer 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 Vice-Chairman Mack, seconded by Mr. Baer to approve the agenda as presented. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 11, 2021

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

PRESENTATION

Ahmad Ward – Historic Mitchellville Freedom Park Update

Mr. Ward stated that Historic Mitchellville Freedom Park, Inc. is a South Carolina non-profit that was formed to preserve the history of the Mitchellville settlement and educate the public about the settlement. A few years ago, the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program paid for a master plan to be created for Historic Mitchellville. The Master plan is 204 pages and includes an interpretive plan, development plan, archaeological mitigation plan, and business and financial plan. The group has been trying to raise money to build the park and recently received \$50,000 from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. For more information please go to www.exploremitchellville.org.

R&C Monthly Project Update

Ms. Kate Schaefer reported that BCOLT is always looking for partner funding through grants and other projects and that they recently submitted one for the Sentinel Landscape Partnership which included the Department of Defense, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior. Ms. Schaefer met with the Town of Bluffton Manager, Scott Marshall, and discussed potential opportunities in Bluffton.

R&C Board Workshop

Mr. Schaefer stated that the Board usually has one meeting a year dedicated as a retreat. This year the retreat will be held on Thursday, June 10, 2021 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm at the Widgeon Point Park. The draft agenda includes a Greenprint update, identification of funding partnerships, project ranking sheets, passive park update, review of current and potential projects, and a field trip.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Baer to nominate Mr. Mathews for Chairman. The vote: YAYS – Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Mathews, seconded by Mr. Webb to nominate Mr. Mack for Vice-Chairman. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of proposed purchase of property and issues incident thereto for Project 2019 Dale PDR, Project Wimbee PDR, and Project Bermuda Bluff Road

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman Mack, seconded by Mr. Baer, to recommend approval of Project Wimbee PDR as presented in executive session and send it to the Natural Resources Committee for approval. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Webb, seconded by Vice-Chairman Mack, to recommend approval of Project Bermuda Bluff Road as presented in executive session and send it to the Natural Resources Committee for approval. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion: It was moved by Ms. O’Kane, seconded by Vice-Chairman Mack to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 pm. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Maffei, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

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

Approved: _____
Walter Mack, Vice-Chairman
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board

Date: _____