



RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, August 13, 2015

3:00 pm

Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA)

Conference Room

6 Snake Rd., Okatie, SC 29909

Phone: (843) 255-2140

Members:

Mark Baker, District 8
Bob Bender, District 4
Selena Brown, District 10
York L. Glover, District 3
Gail O'Kane, District 11
Michael Mathews, District 9
Ed Pappas, District 5 (Chair)
Norma G. Stewart, District 6
Denise Sullivan, District 2
William H. Ladson, District 1
Vacant, District 7

Staff:

Anthony Criscitiello, Planning Director
Amanda Flake, Natural Resource Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
2. REVIEW OF AGENDA
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM JULY 9, 2015 MEETING ([backup](#))
4. GENERAL DISCUSSION
 - A. Financial Update (Eisenman)
 - B. Passive Park Update (Criscitiello)
 - C. Communications Committee Status (Pappas)
 - D. Benefit Analysis Study (Lord)
 - E. Educational Discussion: Partnerships (Lord)
5. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. Contractual Matters Relating to Land Acquisition:
Review of Specific Parcels (Driggers/Lord)
6. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Next Meeting: September 10, 2015, from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) Conference Room, 6 Snake Road, Okatie, SC 29909
7. ADJOURNMENT

Note: If you have any questions, please contact the County Planning Office at (843) 255-2140

**BEAUFORT COUNTY
RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) was held on July 9, 2015, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Board Room at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ed Pappas (Chairman)

Ms. Selena Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. Mark Baker

Mr. Michael Mathews

Ms. Gail O’Kane

Ms. Denise Sullivan

Ms. Norma Stewart

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bob Bender

Mr. York Glover

Mr. Bill Ladson

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Planning Director

Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Mr. Ken Driggers, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Attorney

Ms. Lisa Lord, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Alice Howard, County Councilwoman

Mr. Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League

Mr. Joe Croley, Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Alan Eisenman, Beaufort County Finance Department

Ms. Colleen Barrett, MCAS Community Plans and Liaison Office

Ms. Trish Irwin, BCOLT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ed Pappas called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were none.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the May 14, 2015 Board meeting and there were a few typos to be corrected. With these correction, Ms. Sullivan made a motion and Mr. Mathews seconded the motion to accept the Minutes with changes from the May 14, 2015 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes with**

changes from the May 14, 2015, Board meeting (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Baker, Mathews, O’Kane, Sullivan, Stewart).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Lisa Lord discussed the idea of education of the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program for the Board members as well as the public. For Board members there is an orientation package in a dropbox link that Ms. Lord can send by email. From previous discussions education ideas were collected from Board members and during this meeting Ms. Lord will address the ranking system used on properties for consideration for this Program. There are two different ranking tools, one for rural properties (conservation easements) and one for critical properties (fee simple). The ranking system attempts to qualify values for properties. It is just one of piece of information that is used to evaluate properties. Other tools are the Greenprint, impacts development would have on the property, cost and any leveraged funding, cost to the County after acquisition, relationship to surrounding conserved lands, and relationship to other existing conservation efforts (i.e. Ducks Unlimited, ACE Basin). The criteria in the ranking sheets are weighted and typically two or three rankings are produced and the average score is used as the final score.

Chairman Ed Pappas introduced the newest Board member from Stu Rodman’s District, Ms. Gail O’Kane. Chairman Pappas also announced the Mr. Jim Livingston resigned from the Board.

Ms. Lord sent out an email to the Board members regarding communication initiatives. She would like to get more information out to the public about this Program and would like some insight from the Board members. She would also like to update the Program website to make it more useful. Mr. Lord and Mr. Ken Driggers are working on a State of the Land report (comprehensive document) since the Program has been around for fifteen years.

Mr. Alan Eisenman gave a financial update of the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program. As of May 31, 2015 there was a total amount of \$11.4 million in funds. Of that, \$10.1 million was unrestricted and \$1.3 million was restricted. These numbers do not include the \$20 million referendum that was approved in November 2014.

Mr. Tony Criscitiello gave an update on the passive park development. At this time the Planning Department is working on bringing three passive parks online; Crystal Lake, Okatie Preserve, and Fort Fremont. Fort Fremont plans include an interpretive center, trails, and a pavilion. Crystal Lake is ready to go to bid for Phase 2 which includes renovation of the building to include an interpretive center and offices for the Beaufort County Open Land Trust and the Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Criscitiello has a proposal for maintenance and operation of Crystal Lake that he will give to Mr. Josh Gruber next week. Okatie Preserve is moving forward and going to be an equestrian/passive park through a partnership with the Heroes on Horseback. The Planning Department is currently working on getting permits from the Town of Bluffton for the Okatie Preserve.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Pappas entertained a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to adjourn the Open Session at 3:58 p.m. and convened Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The motion was carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Baker, Mathews, O’Kane, Sullivan, Stewart).

Chairman Pappas adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 4:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Pappas entertained a motion at 4:45 p.m. from Mr. Mathews, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Baker, Mathews, O’Kane, Sullivan, Stewart).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:

Ed Pappas, Chairman,
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board

Date: _____