

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION BOARD

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) Meeting was held Thursday, December 13, 2018, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Conference Room, 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)
Mr. Bob Bender
Mr. Terry Hill
Mr. Beekman Webb

Mr. Richard Walls (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Douglas Koop

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon
Mr. Walter Mack

Ms. Gail O'Kane
Ms. Dorothy Scanlin

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Greenway, Beaufort County Community Development Director
Ms. Amanda Flake, Beaufort County Natural Resources Planner
Ms. Barbara Holmes, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Ms. Diane McMaster, Beaufort County Community Development Admin Asst

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Kristin Williams, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Mr. Amad Ward, Executive Director, Mitchelville Preservation Project
Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Council Member
Ms. Rikki Parker, Coastal Conservation League

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Agenda, and it was unanimous, there were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mike Mathews entertained a motion by Mr. Terry Hill, seconded by Vice Chairman Richard Walls, to adjourn the Regular Session at 3:02 p.m. and convene Executive Session. **The motion carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session (FOR: Mathews, Bender, Hill, Walls, Webb, Koop).**

Chairman Mathews entertained a motion and Mr. Richard Walls seconded the motion to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Session at 3:48 p.m. **The Motion carried unanimously (FOR: Mathews, Bender, Hill, Walls, Webb, Koop ABSENT: Fripp-Gordon, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin).**

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mathews stated for the record there were no matters arising from Executive Session to be voted on today.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chairman Mathews stated that review and approval of the August 9, 2018, Minutes would be placed on hold for a second time due to Ms. Gail O’Kane’s absence from today’s meeting. Ms. Amanda Flake explained the directive from the Beaufort County Legal Department regarding Ms. O’Kane’s requested revision to the August 9 minutes as follows: Ms. O’Kane should request to amend the August 9, 2018, minutes per her prior statement. The Board members present at the August 9, 2018, meeting would then vote on Ms. O’Kane’s requested revision.

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the November 8, 2018, meeting Minutes. There being no changes requested, Mr. Douglas Koop made a Motion and Mr. Richard Walls seconded the Motion to accept said Minutes as written. **The Motion carried unanimously (FOR: Mathews, Bender, Hill, Walls, Webb, Koop ABSENT: Fripp-Gordon, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin).**

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Mathews requested all visitors introduce themselves to the group.

Chairman Mathews asked Ms. Barbara Holmes, Beaufort County Open Land Trust, to explain the two (2) separate Ranking Sheets used in the evaluation process for Critical Lands and Rural Lands Criteria.

The Critical Lands Criteria ranking is divided into the following four (4) areas of evaluation with more detailed, weighted criteria under each listed area:

- Property Characteristics 35% segment weighting
- Financial Considerations 20% segment weighting
- Public Benefits 20% segment weighting
- Environmental Issues 25% segment weighting

The Rural Lands Criteria ranking is divided into the following eight (8) areas of evaluation with more detailed criteria scoring under each listed area:

- Quality of Rural Land 20% segment weighting
- Threat of Conversion 20% segment weighting
- Sufficient Size 20% segment weighting
- Ecological Benefits 20% segment weighting
- Historic or Scenic Benefits 5% segment weighting

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- Proximity to Other Protected Lands 5% segment weighting
- Stewardship 5% segment weighting
- Price of Easement 5% segment weighting

There was discussion and overall agreement regarding the need to revise both ranking sheets to better meet the County's current land requirements / areas of environmental importance as set out in the County's Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Mathews noted the following as starting points for this endeavor: gain a better understanding for modifications; gain a better interpretation of segments; and adjust the weighted percentages to produce a more updated, final evaluation.

Chairman Mathews proposed continued discussion and revisions to the Critical Lands Criteria ranking sheet during the January 2019 R&C Board meeting. Continued discussion and revisions regarding the Rural Lands Criteria ranking sheet should be scheduled to occur during the February – March R&C Board meetings. The Board is asking for ranking sheet revision recommendations from both Ms. Barbara Holmes and Community Development Department staff and for Ms. Holmes and Ms. Flake to share their individual ranking sheets in the future with the Board as an additional learning tool.

Ms. Barbara Holmes explained that the last update to the Greenprint document (parcel data) to the Beaufort County Natural Resources Committee and Beaufort County Council occurred in 2014 and therefore, an updated parcel data presentation is due in 2019. Ms. Holmes stressed the importance to first update the ranking sheets prior to the 2019 Greenprint parcel data submission.

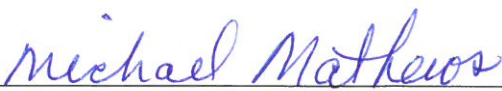
Chairman Mathews also proposed to list the Greenprint Discussion as the first Agenda item for the January 2019 R&C Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, at 5:05 p.m., Chairman Mathews entertained a motion by Mr. Terry Hill and seconded by Mr. Bob Bender, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried unanimously (FOR: Mathews, Bender, Hill, Walls, Webb, Koop ABSENT: Fripp-Gordon, Mack, O'Kane, Scanlin).**

Submitted by: Diane McMaster, Beaufort County Community Development Adm Asst

Approved:



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

Date: 1/10/19