

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION BOARD

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) was held on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Conference Room, 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)

Mr. Richard Walls (Vice Chairman)

Mr. Terry Hill

Mr. Beekman Webb

Ms. Gail O’Kane

Mr. Walter Mack

Mr. Bob Bender

Mr. Douglas Koop

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Dorothy Scanlin

Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon – Resigned effective January 2019

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. Stefanie Nagid, Beaufort County Passive Parks Manager

Ms. Melissa Peagler, Beaufort County Long Range Planner

Mr. Noah Krepps, Beaufort County Zoning Analyst

Mr. Steve Riley, Hilton Head Island Town Manager

Mr. Tom Keaveny, Beaufort County Attorney

Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilwoman

Mr. Ahmad Ward, Executive Director Mitchelville Freedom Park

Ms. Kim Fleming, USMC

Ms. Kate Schaefer, Coastal Conservation League

Ms. Kristin Williams, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mathews entertained a motion by Ms. Gail O’Kane, seconded by Mr. Beekman Webb, to adjourn the Open Session at 3:05 p.m. and convene Executive Session. **The motion carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session** (FOR: Mathews, Walls, Hill, Webb, O’Kane, Mack, Bender, Koop). The Executive Session was called for the purpose of discussing

contractual matters between the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board / Beaufort County Land Exchange.

Chairman Mathews entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Open Session at 3:52 p.m. **There were no matters arising out of Executive Session.**

REVIEW OF AGENDA

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the August 9, 2018, R&C Board meeting. Ms. Gail O’Kane requested that the Adjournment section be revised as follows:

“After two motions relating to the business from the Executive Session failed due to a lack of a second, and the time being after the usual 5:00 p.m. ending time, a board member left which made for an insufficient quorum so the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.”

Ms. O’Kane also stated for the record that she never asked for a change to the August 9, 2018, minutes without a vote.

Five (5) R&C Board members were present at the August 9, 2018, meeting, Mathews, Fripp-Gordon, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin. Three (3) of the five (5) Board members are present today to vote on the requested change to the Adjournment section of the August 9, 2018, meeting minutes, Mathews, Mack, O’Kane. Therefore, Ms. Gail O’Kane made a motion and Chairman Michael Mathews seconded the motion to revise the Adjournment section of the August 9, 2018, meeting minutes to read as noted above. The motion carried unanimously (FOR: Mathews, O’Kane, Mack).

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the December 13, 2018, Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Beekman Webb made a motion and Mr. Douglas Koop seconded the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously (FOR: Mathews, Walls, Hill, Webb, O’Kane, Mack, Bender, Koop).

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Barbara Holmes presented the 2018 Annual Report to the Board members. She discussed the Economic Benefits Report, \$25M Bond Referendum, cumulative program statistics, and status of Rural and Critical Lands Preservation protected properties. In 2018, forty-seven (47) properties were considered for acquisition. Of those forty-seven parcels, four (4) were brought before the Board for consideration, and three were recommended by the R&C Board. Two of the four approved property acquisitions closed in 2018, 4.16 acre Okatie Highway Island, part of the Greenway Corridor, and 9.72 acre Whitehall Tract, Lady’s Island/City of Beaufort. The other two properties are scheduled to close in 2019. Note: The Whitehall Tract acquisition was not recommended by R&C but was presented at the Natural Resources Committee meeting and approved by Beaufort County Council.

There was a general consensus amongst the R&C Board members to submit the 2018 Annual Report, as written with no revisions, to the Natural Resources Committee for review at their upcoming 2019 meeting before being presented to Beaufort County Council.

RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION BOARD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ms. Barbara Holmes distributed and discussed the R&C Program Manual, referencing the following sections:

- 2019 R&C Meeting Schedule
- 2018 Annual Report
- History and Program Highlights
- Feasibility Study, Supplemental Bond Table
- Board information – current member bios, current vacancies – Districts 1 and 8
- R&C Ordinance and 2006 Resolution-providing additional guidelines
- Economic Benefits Report
- Land Conservation Partnerships
- Transaction history through 2018
- Beaufort County Greenprint (last update 2014)
- Frequently asked questions
- Meeting agendas, handouts, notes

Chairman Mathews stated that updates to the R&C financials would be presented to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Holmes reminded all meeting attendees about the interactive protected land maps managed by the Open Land Trust and available to the public for viewing purposes. Ms. Stefanie Nagid stated that all R&C lands can also be accessed at the Beaufort County web site, Home page, GIS Map.

GREENPRINT DISCUSSION

Chairman Mathews stated that the Greenprint map will be updated in 2019. Ms. Holmes feels that revisions to the R&C Lands Criteria should occur first in order to become more informed when updating the Greenprint, and she feels it could take up to one year to complete the necessary revisions before presenting to Beaufort County Council. Both Chairman Mathews and Ms. Holmes stressed the importance of future public stakeholder meetings in order to encourage more public involvement regarding planning and Greenprint updates for each district.

RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION RETREAT

A Board Retreat / Workshop has been tentatively scheduled for March 7 or March 21, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Ms. Amanda Flake is checking venue availability and will report back via email to Board members regarding meeting date, time, and location.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Mathews entertained a motion at 4:48 p.m. from Ms. Gail O'Kane, seconded by Mr. Terry Hill, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Mathews, Walls, Hill, Webb, O'Kane, Mack, Bender, Koop).

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

Approved:

Michael Mathews

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

Date: 2/14/19