



RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, December 10, 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
Vacant, 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 NOVEMBER 12, 2015 MEETING ([backup](#))
4. GENERAL DISCUSSION
 - A. Financial Update (Eisenman)
 - B. Passive Park Update (Criscitiello)
 - C. Status on Communications Plan and TPL Study (Lord/Driggers)
 - D. Beaufort County Sea Level Rise Study (Liz Fly, Ph.D. with SC Sea Grant Consortium)
 - E. 2015 Year in Review (Lord)
5. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Next Meeting: January 14, 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
6. 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 November 12, 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. Bob Bender
Mr. York Glover

Mr. Michael Mathews
Ms. Gail O’Kane
Ms. Norma Stewart

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Denise Sullivan

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Planning Director
Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner
Ms. Lisa Lord, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Alice Howard, County Councilwoman
Mr. Tom Keaveny, Beaufort County Attorney
Mr. Alan Eisenman, Beaufort County Finance Department
Mr. Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League
Ms. Colleen Barrett, MCAS Community Plans and Liaison Office
Mr. Barry Johnson, Attorney at Law
Mr. Robert Graves

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ed Pappas called the meeting to order at 3:01 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 October 8, 2015 Board meeting. Hearing none, Ms. O’Kane made a motion and Mr. Baker seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as written from the October 8, 2015 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes as written from the October 8, 2015, Board meeting** (FOR: Pappas, Baker, Bender, Mathews, O’Kane, Stewart).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Alan Eisenman gave a financial update of the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program. As of September 30, 2015 there was a total amount of \$11.2 million in funds. Of that, \$9.8 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. The Crystal Lake plans are finished and in the hands of Mark Roseneau, Facilities Maintenance Director, to put out to bid for Phase 2. Fort Fremont is moving forward and the project to address the comments from SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) is proceeding as planned. The Planning Department is working on getting a Manure Management Plan for Okatie Preserve as a requirement by the Town of Bluffton.

Ms. Lisa Lord stated that the Rural and Critical website is up and running. So far, she has had a lot of good feedback from the public. She and Mr. Ken Driggers have been writing a blog once a week to keep the public informed about this Program. There is a person that has been hired to maintain the website. Ms. Lord also said that the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is working on a revision of the proposal for the study, based on recommendations from the Board, and they may be able to fund some of it themselves. Ms. Lord will try and have the finished proposal from TPL by the next Board meeting.

Ms. Lord had the honor of being a guest speaker at the Land Trust Alliance National Land Conservation Conference in California last month. She spoke about the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program to about 2,000 people. This group consists of an overarching organization that monitors what all Land Trusts are doing around the nation and puts together policies that all Land Trusts adhere to. One such program is a quality assurance accreditation program. The Beaufort County Open Land Trust has been working on this accreditation for 4 years and will hopefully get it by next spring. BCOLT received national recognition for working with the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program at this conference.

The Board discussed having a Program Retreat in the spring of 2016 in lieu of a regular meeting. At this time the Retreat will be planned for Thursday, March 10, 2016 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Pappas entertained a motion by Mr. Glover, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown, to adjourn the Open Session at 3:32 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, Bender, Glover, Mathews, O'Kane, Stewart).

Chairman Pappas adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Baker made a motion; seconded by Mr. Bender, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel H under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion was carried unanimously to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel H under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session.** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Baker, Bender, Glover, Mathews, O’Kane, Stewart).

Vice-Chairman Brown made a motion; seconded by Mr. Glover, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel G under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion was carried unanimously to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel G under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session.** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Baker, Bender, Glover, Mathews, O’Kane. AGAINST: Stewart).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Pappas entertained a motion at 5:04 p.m. from Vice-Chairman Brown, seconded by Ms. O’Kane, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Baker, Bender, Glover, Mathews, O’Kane, Stewart).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

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

Date: _____