



RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, March 8, 2018

3:00 pm

Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority

Conference Room

6 Snake Road, Beaufort, SC 29909

Phone: (843) 255-2140

Members:

Michael Mathews, District 9 (Chair)

Mark Baker, District 8 (Vice-Chair)

Bob Bender, District 4

Susie Fripp-Gordon, District 1

Terry Hill, District 6

Walter Mack, District 3

Gail O'Kane, District 11

Dorothy Scanlin, District 10

Denise Sullivan, District 2

Richard Walls, District 7

Vacant, District 5

Staff:

Anthony Criscitiello, Planning Director

Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2018 ([backup](#))

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION

A. Financial Update (Flake)

B. Passive Park Update (Flake)

C. TPL Feasibility Study/Bond Referendum Update (Holmes)

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Contractual Matters Relating to Land Acquisition:

Review of Parcel 2018A (Holmes)

6. OTHER

A. Next Meeting: April 12, 2018, 3:00 P.M. at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) Conference Room, 6 Snake Road, Okatie, SC 29909

7. ADJOURNMENT

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 February 8, 2018, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Conference Room at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)	Mr. Walter Mack
Mr. Mark Baker (Vice-Chairman)	Ms. Gail O’Kane
Mr. Bob Bender	Ms. Denise Sullivan
Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon	
Mr. Terry Hill	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Dorothy Scanlin
Mr. Richard Walls

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Community Development Director
Ms. Amanda Flake, Beaufort County Natural Resources Planner
Ms. Barbara Holmes, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilwoman
Mr. Eric Greenway, Beaufort County Community Development Department
Mr. Rob Merchant, Beaufort County Community Development Assistant Director
Mr. Eric Larson, Beaufort County Environmental Engineering Director
Mr. York Glover, Beaufort County Councilman
Ms. Kristin Williams, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Director of Stewardship
Ms. Kim Fleming, MCAS Community Plans and Liaison Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

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 January 11, 2018 Board meeting. Hearing none, Ms. O’Kane made a motion and Vice-Chairman Baker seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as written from the January 11, 2018 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes as written from the January 11, 2018, Board meeting** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Sullivan).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Financial Update

Ms. Amanda Flake stated that currently there was a balance of \$13.5 million with \$3.5 million reserved for park infrastructure and \$10 million for property purchase and/or park infrastructure.

Passive Park Update

Mr. Tony Criscitiello introduced Mr. Eric Greenway who will be the new Community Development Department Director in May. He also stated the Mr. Rob Merchant was promoted to Community Development Assistant Director. Mr. Criscitiello stated that Beaufort County staff was working on final plans to finish the boardwalk around Crystal Lake and the Grand Opening would be sometime in the spring. Okatie Preserve Park permits were being finalized by the Town of Bluffton and once permits were obtained the County would put this project out to bid. Mr. Criscitiello gave an update on the Fort Fremont project as well as Mitchellville Park and Widgeon Point.

TPL Economic Study Update

Ms. Holmes stated that the Trust for Public Land (TPL) Economic study was released at the County Council meeting on January 22, 2018. She stated there was a good amount of interest from the media with some interviews. The main presenter unfortunately had to leave the next morning due to a very serious issue and therefore the stakeholder meetings were cancelled. Right now Ms. Holmes would like to leave this study in a holding pattern until the Board figures out if a bond referendum was warranted. Ms. Denise Sullivan stated that she felt the Board still needed to get this study out to the public. Ms. Holmes said she would work on it.

Bond Referendum Update

Ms. Holmes stated that the feasibility study should be completed by next week and the phone poll should be completed in six weeks. Once both are completed, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) representatives expect to report to the R&C Board in April on whether or not to proceed with another bond referendum.

R&C Retreat

Chairman Mike Mathews stated that the Port Royal Sound Foundation had offered to have the R&C Retreat at their office. They would also provide a tour of the property to show the Board members the efforts of collaboration with this agency on purchasing land. The Board would also discuss the results of the feasibility study and public opinion poll and whether or not to request another bond referendum. Tentatively the Retreat would be in April from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Details would be worked out and information sent to the Board members once everything was confirmed.

Election of Officers

Vice-Chairman Mark Baker nominated Mr. Mike Mathews to be Chairman for 2018 and Ms. Gail O'Kane seconded. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept Mr. Mike Mathews as Chairman for 2018** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O'Kane, Sullivan).

Ms. O’Kane nominated Mr. Mark Baker to be Vice-Chairman for 2018 and Mr. Terry Hill seconded. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept Mr. Mark Baker as Vice-Chairman for 2018** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Sullivan).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Mathews entertained a motion at 3:57 p.m. from Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hill, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Sullivan).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:

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

Date: _____