

May 25, 2012

The Town Council held a Council Workshop on May 25, 2012 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act being met.

Present were:

- Carl J. Smith, Mayor
- Mike Perkis, Mayor Pro Tem
- Hartley Cooper, Councilwoman
- Jerry Kaynard, Councilman
- Madeleine McGee, Councilwoman
- Patrick O'Neil, Councilman
- Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

Mayor Smith opened the meeting and stated the purpose of the meeting was to review the accreted land management plan. He turned the meeting over to Councilman O'Neil.

Councilman O'Neil distributed a proposed work schedule of the meeting. He stated that he would ask Administrator Benke to give a brief update, and then they would begin the review of the proposed management plan of the Town of Sullivan's Island Protected Land.

Administrator Benke stated the Town has received one grant – Urban Greenbelt - for work to improve public access; and will submit an application for another grant to DHEC/OCRM. The Urban Greenbelt grant was recently revised by Charleston County to allow for communities to spend their pro rata share of the half-cent sales tax urban greenbelt on public access. The Town's plan was to develop trail paths through the accreted land area, as well as build boardwalks to help people move from the pavement to the beach and accreted land. The initial trail will be in the Station 16 area. It is being designed by Jeff Jackson, Richard Porcher, and Norman Brunswig. The grant application to DHEC/OCRM is geared toward municipalities and coastal communities to improve public beach access. The Town has applied for 50/50 split grant of \$60,000 and should be awarded by the end of July.

Councilman O'Neil briefly went over the current accreted land proposal, and began discussion with the Beach Paths. Changes made:

- Town-maintained Beach **Access** Paths
- **d. Beach access paths that would be appropriate for people with various types of handicaps.**
- Non-Town-Maintained Beach **Access** Paths
- Add appendix with all beach paths

Administrator Benke will consult with Attorney Dodds regarding the legality of how it is implemented, and whether the Town can adopt a plan without having an ordinance change.

#### Nature Paths

Discussed adding “design” to (b); however, Councilman O’Neil stated Attorney Dodds would need to be consulted regarding what extent can proceed with the design before finalizing this plan.

#### Transition Zones

Consistency within the Units will need to be reviewed.

#### Recommended Planning Units

- Review portion of land between Station 17 and the Sand Dunes path: that it be managed to provide a gradual transition from strategies of Unit 1 to the strategies of Unit 2.
- Consider Unit 3 (c) as being part of Unit 4. Council members encouraged to walk the property.

#### Management Plans by Units

##### Planning Unit #1

- Professionals should update Appendix C into categories of plants such as native, non-native, invasive, non-invasive. Perhaps harmful invasive species, etc. It is not clear what to call them or how to define the plants.

##### Planning Unit #2

- Need definition of priority trees
- Under Rationale, replace “Approximately 50 percent of the total land cover within this unit” to **“Up to 50 percent of maritime shrubland within this unit”**. Discuss with experts prior to change.
- Under Rationale, **delete “¼ acre”**.

##### Planning Unit #3

- Under Preferred Strategy, include “Encourage restoration of wetlands where they previously occurred.” Prior to inclusion, discuss with experts.

##### Planning Unit #4

- Under Transition, Depth: change “Maximum of 50 feet or up” to **“Maximum of up to 60 feet.”**
- Under Rationale, delete “Approximately 50 percent of the total land cover within this unit” to **“Up to 50 percent of maritime shrubline not including the transition line within this unit”**.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller