

March 23, 2009

A Special Meeting of Sullivan's Island Town Council was held on the above date at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied:

Present were: Carl J. Smith, Mayor  
Patrick O'Neil, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Buddy Howle, Councilman  
Jerry Kaynard, Councilman  
Mike Perkis, Councilman  
Everett Presson, Councilman  
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman  
Nickie Bluestein, Planning Commission

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and stated that the press and public were duly notified in accordance with State law. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to review the Accreted Land Management Plan draft document with Coastal Science and Engineering, Town Council, and the Selection Committee members from the Planning Commission. (Anne Kilpatrick, member of the Planning Commission, was absent).

Tim Kana of Coastal Science and Engineering stated he would focus on the four broad alternatives they developed. These alternatives are: do nothing, continue present practice; increased vegetation management (including fire control advantages), and modify topography and increased vegetation management (including fire control advantages). The report chapters consist of overview, general setting and history, condition surveys, historical changes, future changes, and management alternatives. Mr. Kana gave a brief overview of each chapter. Mr. Kana introduced Bart Sabine, who presented information regarding vegetation in the accreted land.

The alternatives for managing the accreted land are: (1) to leave the land alone. The beach will continue to accret or remain stable; the vegetation will continue to grow larger. Over time, the habitats will change. If the current wax myrtle habitat were to catch on fire, it could cause a serious fire. However, as the maritime forest develops, the fire potential would decrease because it would be very moist under the vegetation. As the forest developed and started opening up, there would be less of a rat problem because rats would not have so many places to hide and predators could get in there. Currently, the trimmed back myrtles create an ideal habitat for the rats.

(2) Maintain the same practices. Some beachfront owners cut their wax myrtles, while others do not. It does not appear to be an ideal situation, and it looks artificial.

(3) Alternative three focuses on more extensive vegetation management. Right now there are bands of vegetation that are running perpendicular to the beach. With this alternative, there would be bands of vegetation, but they would be turned to run parallel with the beach.

(4) Alternative four is more a landscape architects' plan. This is a plan that the Town would have a vision of the topography and terrain; combining a larger dune or dunes and possibly containing some ponds, so there will be a variety of habitats.

The cost of the dunes is estimated at \$5 to \$25 per cubic yard. The dune simulated in the report would need approximately 100,000 cubic yards. The cost of the landscape management plan would depend on the number of acres that would be changed, and the method used. If an acre of myrtles were changed to grassland, herbicides, burning or machinery methods could be used. The initial clearing would cost about \$200 to \$225 per acre, with the annual maintenance cost of bush-hogging  $\frac{1}{4}$  area about \$25 to \$35 per acre.

Mr. Kana stated that they planned to receive Council's input, and write a synopsis that could be used at the community public forum. He requested that Andy Benke coordinate any changes that Council suggests to the plan. Councilman O'Neil stated that there were also details in the report he would like the public to know, such as the rise of sea level and the impact on erosion versus accretion. Administrator Benke will place the document on the Town's website for the public to review. Mr. Kana added that if they had to recommend an alternative, they would recommend alternative four. Specific prices could be worked up for the different scenarios.

Mayor Smith opened the meeting for public comment. Carl Novak suggested preparing a graphic showing the location of the proposed sand dune, and to consider managing the change over time, if possible, due to the cost. Susan Middaugh inquired about the demarcation line and the jetties. Mr. Kana stated graphics will be available at the community public forum.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney