

April 8, 2013

A Special Meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied:

Present were: Carl 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 called the meeting to order and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State law. He stated the item for discussion was the Sullivan's Island Nature Trail Plan. It was discussed at the Real Estate Committee meeting on April 4, 2013; therefore, Mayor Smith turned the meeting over to Real Estate Committee Chair O'Neil. Councilman O'Neil stated it includes 915 feet of boardwalk at a cost of about \$50 per linear foot. The boardwalk includes areas to overlook the harbor and wetlands; benches, and will be strong and wide enough to handle a utility vehicle.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to recommend approval of Phase I of the Sullivan's Island Nature Trail Plan with budget not to exceed \$50,000 from the Greenbelt fund, carried unanimously.

Councilman O'Neil asked Consultant Jeff Jackson to give an overview of his proposal for work to be completed on the Invasive Plant Species Plan. Mr. Jackson stated he would like to train staff members of the Maintenance department, if possible, along with volunteers to help with the eradication of several invasive species of plants in the accreted area. Chief Stith expressed concern with training and providing manpower of his employees. Mr. Jackson responded that he could work with both professionals in his field, along with Town volunteers, to eradicate the plants. The targeted invasive plant species with the greatest priority will be Chinese tallow (popcorn tree), Chinese privet, and Chinese wisteria; although other invasive species are included (list attached) such as Japanese honeysuckle, Chinaberry, and waxleaf ligustrum. The "hack and squirt" method will be used, allowing the dead plant to decompose, and will not need to be physically removed out of the accreted land. He outlined the timeframe for the start-up phase, as in his program implementation dated April 8, 2013 (attached).

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, for Council to approve a start-up program for the management of the Invasive Species Plan of Sullivan's Island dated April 2013, to be supervised by Jeff Jackson; and that targets invasive species of attached list dated April 8, 2013 with budget of \$4,100; and that work will not commence before notifying the Low Country Open Land Trust, as well as proper signage to notify general public in the work area, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Ellen Miller

Proposal for Management of Invasive Plant Species for Sullivan's Island
April 2013

Overview – Invasive plant species are a widespread problem in the accreted land on the Island as well as in other natural areas and maintained landscapes. These species were brought in usually for either agricultural or ornamental purposes. They have become overly successful by edging out our native species which our native wildlife depend upon to thrive.

We have several species of invasive plants in the accreted property, in varying states of establishment. Some, such as Japanese honeysuckle, are so entrenched that it's a lost cause. Others, like china-berry and waxleaf ligustrum, occur so sporadically that their management is easily accomplished alongside a broader program. Where I feel our focus should be on are those species that are on the threshold of becoming entrenched, yet are still at a level where management is feasible. These species are:

Chinese tallow or popcorn tree
Chinese privet
Chinese wisteria

There are several methods that can be used simultaneously for eradication. Seedlings and saplings can be removed physically by pulling or a few well-directed jabs with a sharp shovel well-below the soil line (but with minimal disturbance). Larger seed-bearing sized plants will require herbicide application using the 'hack and squirt' method, where a cane blade is used to make a gash and the appropriate herbicide is immediately applied. This method is very direct and has minimal effect on surrounding vegetation and habitat.

The wisteria presents a tougher battle. First off a front needs to be created by cutting the vines that are spreading into and over the adjacent vegetation. Then the area can be treated via foliar spray with the very specific herbicide Transline. This herbicide only kills plants in the bean family and will spare what little good vegetation there is under the wisteria.

Timing-wise, the physical work - pulling, cutting, etc. – can be done at any time, with either town employees or residential volunteers, after minimal training. Chemical treatment, on the other hand, will require a bit more expertise, training and supervision. It needs to be done when the plant is actively growing, June to October, in order to transport the herbicide through the plant.

This will not be a one-time cure-all. This will need to be an ongoing program, and should be monitored. Ideally, removing the seed-producing plants should take a few years, but fighting the seedlings will be an ongoing process for several years to come. Involving the residents in the program, even on the homeowner level and island-wide, would be a worthy endeavor.

Program Implementation

Hire Mr. McCord to train and work alongside town employees and volunteers for 3 4-hour sessions as follows:

Late-April/May – Work with town employees and skilled volunteers to begin attacking wisteria and to begin removal of seedling/saplings of tallow and privet. Flagging of larger plants for later treatment could also occur

June/July – Work with skilled volunteers to begin herbicide treatment and continued physical removal.

October – train and work with residential volunteers in seedling removal, primarily of tallow and privet.

Program costs:

Mr. McCords Fee	\$1500.00
My Fee – to train, coordinate, and monitor program in 2013	\$1500.00
Tools and equipment	\$350.00
Herbicides	\$750.00
Total Cost	\$4100.00

Jeff Jackson
Lowcountry Roots LLC

E Miller

From: Lowcountryroots <Lowcountryroots@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 1:45 PM
To: Andy Benke; E Miller
Subject: Invasive species in the acretted land

Chinese tallow/ *Sapium sebiferum*
Chinese privet/ *Ligustrum sinense*
Waxleaf privet/*Ligustrum lucidum*
Chinese wisteria/*Wisteria chinensis*
Autumn olive/*Eleagnus pungens*
Japanese honeysuckle /*Lonicera japonicum*
Pampas grass/*Cortaderia sellowiana*
Chinaberry/
Rattlebush/*Daubentonia*
Sesbania/
White mulberry/*Morus alba*
Common reed/*Phragmites australis*
Giant reed/*Arundo*
Alligator weed/
Barbary fig/*Opuntia ficus-indica*

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