

December 7, 2009

A Special Meeting of Sullivan's Island Town Council to discuss the Accreted Land Management Plan was held on the above date at the Church of the Holy Cross, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied:

Present were: Carl J. Smith, Mayor
Mike Perkis, Mayor Pro-Tem
Buddy Howle, Councilman
Jerry Kaynard, Councilman
Madeleine McGee, Councilwoman
Patrick O'Neil, Councilman
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and stated that the press and public were duly notified in accordance with State law. Approximately 160 residents and citizens, along with members of the media, were in attendance.

Mayor Smith thanked Father Burwell and Town staff for their help with organizing the meeting. He briefly described the process of the accreted land management plan and stated that tonight was not the end of the process. Mayor Smith indicated that he would ask Council to consider a motion to remove Option Four from the Plan later during their discussion. He added that seventeen citizens had signed-up to speak at the meeting, and they were each given three minutes maximum to speak. Mayor Smith read a letter from William Short, who was to speak but was unable to attend. Other concerned residents to speak regarding the management of the accreted land were: Tom McCutchen, Norwood Smoak, Ettaleah Bluestein, Nicky Bluestein, Rick Reed, Arthur Smith, Michael Bourland, Billy Want, Carol Killough, Karen Coste, Alice Paylor, Dan Krosse, along with Calvin Bailey (S.C. Forestry Commission), Thomas F. Hartnett and Josh Eagle (USC Law School). Mayor Smith then opened the floor for two more speakers, preferably with differing points of view. Residents Bobby Hood and Tammy Camp spoke.

Mayor Smith asked consultant Tim Kana of Coastal Science and Engineering to speak. Dr. Kana explained the function of sand dunes, how they are formed, and explained Option Four of the Plan. Because the island received so much sand so quickly, sand dunes did not have an opportunity to form. Having a management plan that might allow for higher dunes to be built in the future might be in the Town's best interest to keep in the plan; but Council does not have to commit to it. There are other items to consider such as permitting, storm water management, and maintenance of vegetation, if desired. Dr. Kana reminded the audience that this is a management plan; not a specific architect's rendering of how the landscape will look. The management plan will give the community a palate of alternatives to consider.

Mayor Smith stated again that Council members O'Neil, McGee and Kaynard worked together to draft Principles and Directions for the Land Management Plan to be presented tonight. It is not the final product. He stated again that he will ask for a motion from Council to delete Option Four from the Plan. Councilman Howle stated that leaving Option Four in the plan does not necessarily mean that it is being endorsed; however, he believes it should remain an option. The consensus of Council was to leave Option Four in the Plan.

Mayor Smith turned the meeting over to Councilman O'Neil. Councilman O'Neil stated that he, Councilwoman McGee, and Councilman Kaynard had independently circulated documents presenting proposed principles as well as a document to list the components of a plan that should be included in the end product. The first document Councilman O'Neil presented was the Proposed Principles for the Management of the Town's Accreted Land, which are principles to guide the development of the plan. This draft plan was previously circulated to Council to read, and no votes had been taken on this draft plan. The document is included as a part of these minutes.

The companion document, initiated by Councilmember McGee, involved the directions to give to the consultants. These directions are not instructing them what to do, but list what types of information Council wants the end product to include.

Councilman O'Neil added that Council has talked informally about possibly having a motion to adopt these principles tonight, but also putting it back on the agenda for the next regular Council meeting, so amendments can be made if needed.

Councilman Howle stated, to address the audience's concerns voiced tonight, the reason for Council processing information presented tonight was so Council has the ability to review it between now and December 15th meeting.

Councilman Kaynard moved for the adoption of the Principles document just presented; motion seconded by Councilman O'Neil; however, he added it would be appropriate to go through the Directions document first before the vote and discussion.

Councilman O'Neil proceeded to present the document Direction for Drafting the Sullivan's Island Accreted Land Management Plan (ALMP), which is included in the minutes of this meeting.

Mayor Smith stated a motion had been made and seconded, and called for discussion.

Councilman Perkis stated he would approve moving forward with this proposal as a first draft only, as he believes there is insufficient emphasis on the benefits of the maritime as an ecosystem. He added that he has incorporated track changes in the document for Council members to review before the next Council meeting.

Councilwoman McGee stated she would agree to go forward if it is agreed that this will be published on the website so that Council can hear from the public between now and the December 15th meeting.

Councilman Kaynard stated he was in support of these documents. He commented that it was very important that all try to listen to one another's point of view.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Howle, to adopt the Principles and Directions documents, carried unanimously.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney
Town Clerk