

April 21, 2008

A Special Meeting of Sullivan's Island Town Council was held on the above date at Town Hall, to discuss the Accreted Land Management Plan, 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
Everett Presson, Councilman

Mayor Smith stated the discussion today would include how to manage the accreted land property between the property lines and the primary dunes. Also present were Tim Kana, President of Coastal Science and Engineering, along with Project Director John Sabine and President Bart Sabine, both of Sabine and Waters; and Chris Mack, Project Manager with Dewberry Engineering.

Mr. Kana stated these experts were brought in related to the vegetation aspect of the project, and introduced Mr. Bart Sabine. Mr. Sabine stated the first step would be the identification of the different habitats and layers of succession. Different stages of succession shape the species of plants and animals in an area. Items observed will be elevation, vegetation, height of trees, density, and animals. This information will be transferred into Mr. Kana's models. Their component is to identify the ecosystem, listen to what the Town wants to do with the vegetation, and then come up with a plan to maintain those habitats. For example, if the Town wanted to manipulate a certain type of vegetation, it will be cheaper and easier to accomplish in certain habitats. Mr. John Sabine explained how the information would be gathered on the habitats. Aerial photography will be used to see vegetation communities from the air. A map will be generated based on that photography, and field work will be conducted to survey the vegetation and over story within the communities. Soil samples will be taken to determine the edge of the wetland. Mr. Sabine stated at this point he would guess there are 8-12 communities in the accreted land. When the communities are identified, a timeline can be developed to predict how they will change over the next 10-50 years. From that data, it can be determined the best plan to manage the communities.

Councilman Presson inquired how the study will help the Town be a good steward of a land management plan, as one resident group on the island wants to cut trees in the accreted land; the other resident group does not want to cut. Mr. Sabine stated the information will be provided; it will be the Town's responsibility to decide what to do with that information. He continued that if some residents want to cut the trees, they want to know why they prefer the trees to be cut. If it is for a view, perhaps not all of the trees would need to be cut down. The aerial photography and field survey work will help determine that aspect. They might be able to offer alternatives for the two resident groups, based on their findings and what they believe might happen to the area over time.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney