



2020 Hampton St. • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2082

Minutes

September 27, 2010
4:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present:

Carol Kososki, Virginia Sanders, Jim Lawracy, Glenice Pearson, Sam Holland,
Gary Atkinson, Frank Houston, Mildred, John Grego, Margaret DuBard, Becky Bailey

Members absent: none

Others Present:

Jim Wilson, Richland County Environmental Program Manager
Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Jessica Artz, Gills Creek Watershed Association
Ryan Nevius, Sustainable Midlands

Chairman Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Carol welcomed our guests: Jessica Artz and Ryan Nevius.

Minutes: The minutes of July 26, 2010 and August 27, 2010 were approved.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Jessica Artz discussed the role of Gills Creek Watershed Association and presented a recent video on water quality and our community challenge to address environmental problems before it is too late. The video will be used on web sites and public news outlets for education.

Ryan Nevius presented a video from Sustainable Midlands on concerns of air quality in the midlands that affect all citizens. We are on the threshold of non-attainment for air quality standards.

The video was funded by RCCC and will be used for education and public awareness.

Gary suggested checking on whether vehicles purchased by Richland County meet the current DHEC air quality standards.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Committee: Gary Atkinson, Chair

Gary updated the commission on progress in Pebble Creek watershed with community meetings and four new easement requests. He cited the watershed model as an example for other communities to protect neighborhoods and maintain rural integrity. Glenice reminded members of our commission to recuse themselves from voting on any issue that may imply direct benefits to members.

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair

Frank reported that Jim, Gary and Nancy had visited 2 pre-1900 homes in Spring Hill (northwest Richland County) that the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation hopes to save. Conservation easements rather than historic grants may be future options.

Interim reports were submitted by September 15 and good progress is being made on all grants. A committee meeting was held on the 21st to hear from the Dept. of Archives and History on what is involved in establishing a Local Certified Government program to preserve historic buildings. This will require an ordinance and a regulatory role for the Commission. Opinion was mixed as to whether to pursue this. The committee did agree to insist on a covenant for all preservation grantees.

A graduate student assistantship to complete work on the inventory and do additional research was approved.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair

Sam Holland presented each member with the new trails brochure which was presented to County Council last month. We appreciate the work from Nancy with Palmetto Conservation Foundation.

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair.

Virginia Sanders asked Jim Wilson to update the Commission on our budget for FY11.

Jim reported that no additional expenses have been made at this time other than staff salary, historic grant payments, and professional service contracts. We have received from county finance the rollover of last year's obligated funds on grants and special projects.

Program Manager's Report: Jim Wilson

1. The bid to Fort Jackson for two parcels of land was not accepted.
The accepted bid was for all six tracts from one buyer.
2. County administration has decided to advertise the position vacated by Hugh Caldwell as Environmental Program Manager which supports both Conservation Commission and Richland Conservation District.
3. Carol, Glenice, Becky, and Jim attended the CPAC- Energy Conference in Columbia.
4. The Garner's Ferry Park proposal will be discussed at Council this Tuesday.

5. The Jackson Creek Stream Restoration Project will have a vendor selected soon after final interviews.
6. Jim presented staff recommendations with approval from the Conservation Committee to allocate easement funds to several landowners as compensation for their donation.
7. A motion was made and passed to accept the report as presented. (Report attached)
8. A request was made by Insite Corporation, Scott Bolo, to donate two lots in the city near an existing easement area on Jackson Avenue. Due to the small tract size and limited benefit to water quality protection, RCCC voted not to accept these parcels for conservation.

A motion was made and accepted to extend the meeting 15 minutes.

Other Business:

Virginia expressed concerns about the current land use policies that only address development and not rural family lands. She indicated Councilman Norman Jackson would introduce a change at Council on Tuesday.

Jim Lawracy recommended that the commission look at their long term objectives and ordinances to evaluate the organizational structure of the commission for historic preservation and conservation. We may be at a point to consider two structures based on our work load and future vision for Richland County.

Becky discussed briefly the Smith Branch Greenway Project in that will create a greenway known as north hook of Three Rivers which connects near Richland Memorial. More information will be presented later

Public Input:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM

Next Meeting Date: October 25, 2010

Submitted by:
Jim Wilson
Program Manager