

AGENDA

HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD

March 2, 1978

1. Approval of Minutes, July 21 meeting
2. Discussion of Bylaws
3. Proposed Projects
 - Mountain Bridge; Mr. C. Thomas Wyche
 - Angel Oak; Mr. Mitch Rodgers
 - Shealy's Pond; staff
 - Buist Game Management Area; staff
 - St. Phillips Island; staff
4. Project Status Reports
 - Eastatoe Creek
 - Thomas Heyward, Jr. Burial Site
 - Ashley River Road easements
 - Amoco site
5. National Heritage Trust
6. Adjourn

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD

10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 2, 1978

1116 Bankers Trust Tower

Columbia, S. C.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Walter T. Ahearn
(Representing Mr. John Tiller)
Dr. Wade T. Batson
Mr. Fred Brinkman
Mr. Philip Edwards
Dr. Sid Gauthreaux
Mr. Charles Lee
Mr. David C. Sennema
Dr. Robert Stephenson
Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.
Mr. Ben Williamson

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. LaBruce Alexander
Dr. H. Wayne Beam
Mr. Stu Greeter
Mr. Thomas S. Kohlsaar
Ms. Julie Lumpkin
Mr. Steve McCalla
Ms. Beth McClure
Ms. Jan Newborn
Mr. Sam Phillips
Dr. Doug Rayner
Mr. Mitch Rodgers
Ms. Julie Wright
Mr. Brad Wyche
Mr. C. T. Wyche

In Chairman Hudson's absence, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Wayne Beam. The minutes of the July 21, 1977 Advisory Board meeting were approved by the Board.

A draft of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board By-Laws was presented by Tom Kohlsaar. Since the by-laws were in draft form, Dr. Beam suggested appointing a committee to study them and make recommendations to the Board at the next meeting. A committee of Mr. Ahearn (Chairman), Mr. Brinkman, and Mr. Williamson was appointed. Members of the Advisory Board were asked to mail comments or editorial changes to the Heritage Trust Office (1116 Bankers Trust Tower, Columbia, S. C. 29201) so that these comments might be considered by the committee in formulating the final draft for presentation at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Brinkman that a vice-chairman be elected to chair the meeting until the by-laws were approved and a chairman and vice-chairman could be formally elected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lee and unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Ben Williamson was elected as Acting Vice-Chairman.

Dr. Timmerman suggested that a trust fund or eleemosynary corporation be established to hold contributions of money made to the Heritage Trust Program. He also suggested that the Wildlife Department Division of Information and Public Affairs be utilized to solicit contributions to the program. The Board voted unanimously to have the staff bring back recommendations for such a trust fund or eleemosynary corporation at the next board meeting.

The next item on the Agenda was PROPOSED PROJECTS.

Mountain Bridge - Mr. Kohlsaas introduced Mr. C. T. Wyche, President of Naturaland Trust and Mr. Brad Wyche, Trustee of Naturaland Trust. Mr. Wyche made a presentation on the proposed Mountain Bridge project located in Greenville County. It was proposed that the area be jointly studied by PRT and Wildlife to locate natural areas that are sufficiently unique to meet the criteria of the Heritage Trust Act. These unique areas would then be placed into the Heritage Trust with the remainder placed in the State Park System. Mr. Wyche discussed the unique features of Mountain Bridge. Mr. Lee proposed a resolution on the Mountain Bridge project which the Board unanimously adopted. (Resolution attached as Appendix I to these minutes.) Dr. Doug Rayner, Staff Biologist for the Heritage Trust Program, pointed out that acquisition of such properties would essentially require sacrificing other priority projects, due to limited funds.

Angel Oak - Mr. Mitch Rodgers, representing Mr. S. E. Felkel who is the owner of the site, gave a presentation on Angel Oak. Located on Johns Island in Charleston County, the Angel Oak is reputed to be the oldest known live oak. It has been featured on post cards and in numerous articles and has generated concern from many individuals who would like to see the tree protected; the Heritage Trust has also taken it as a symbol appearing on handouts, newsletters, etc. Mr. Rodgers asked that the Board consider Mr. Felkel's proposal to register the property in connection with a plan to develop his property for commercial use. Dr. Timmerman advised that the Commission not take action, but have the staff study this more thoroughly. Mr. Williamson commended the owner and Mr. Rodgers for coming to the Heritage Trust for advice and guidance. Mr. Kohlsaas mentioned that this was an opportunity for the Heritage Trust to recognize the tree as the asset that it is and find a workable way to preserve it. A motion was made and approved by the Board to draft an agreement to include two key points: 1) that the Board approve all development plans for the site, and 2) that the Board approve all advertising and literature referring to the Heritage Trust.

To save time at advisory board meetings, Mr. Kohlsaas proposed that certain committees be appointed to review projects and bring recommendations before the full Board in developing proposals. Mr. Williamson suggested that the Board become more familiar and involved with the inventory process, and a discussion followed to schedule a time the Board could meet to discuss the inventory process. Mr. Lee suggested setting meeting dates as the first Thursday, so as to plan calendars in advance. The Board approved this action and decided that the next meeting be tentatively set for the first Thursday in June. It was also planned that an all-day meeting take place to give ample time to discuss and review the inventory process. A notice will be mailed informing members of the exact meeting date and time. (NOTE: A conflict has already developed for Thursday, June 1, so the meeting is now scheduled for Thursday, June 8.)

Shealy's Pond - Mr. Kohlsaas pointed out the pond's significance to the Heritage Trust as a stand of Atlantic white cedar, which is a rare plant community throughout its range. The pond also contains several unusual plants, including three species of pitcher plants. Mr. Kohlsaas proposed to acquire somewhere between 80-100 acres along the stream which is bordered by Atlantic white cedar. Mr. Lee suggested that Shealy's Pond have the Board's endorsement and a progress report be made to the Board at the next meeting. Dr. Batson was chosen to keep the board informed on the status of the project.

Buist Game Management Area - (located in Horry County, owned by International Paper Company). International Paper proposes to donate somewhere between 4,000-16,000 acres to the Wildlife Department for use as a wildlife management area. Mr. Kohlsaas discussed the area which contains several carolina bays with dense shrub bog vegetation and is the best habitat known for the Venus' fly trap in South Carolina. A proposal is due for submission to International Paper later this month. If and when the land is donated it would be proposed to the Board that it be included in the Heritage Trust. Dr. Beam reinforced the idea that the role of the Board would be to recommend that the property be included in the corpus of the Trust, but not be involved in the actual acquisition.

St. Phillips Island - Mr. Kohlsaas reported that the Island was possibly the scene of another coastal island development and plans are currently held up by a bridge permit required from the Coast Guard. From a biological standpoint, Mr. Kohlsaas said the Island was deserving of protection. The Nature Conservancy has undertaken an appraisal of the Island to see if protection would be feasible. Dr. Stephenson pointed out that there were numerous archeological and historical sites on the Island.

The next item on the Agenda was PROJECT STATUS REPORTS. Mr. Kohlsaas brought the Board up to date on several projects previously acted on by the Board.

Eastatooe Creek - The question with the Federal Power Commission and BOR involving whether the project is eligible for matching funds is expected to be resolved in one to two months. Mr. Williamson pointed out that when this matter was taken care of we would have funds for Shealy's Pond.

Thomas Heyward, Jr. Burial Site - It is proposed that the owners donate the site to the State and it be protected under the Heritage Trust. The site already has endorsement in principle by the Board with Jasper County maintaining the site. Mr. Martin Sauls, Representative from Jasper County, has asked for some time to raise an endowment which could be used to pay the county to maintain the site.

Ashley River Road Easements - Mr. Lee reported that they have not been very successful in getting agreements on the easements because of the numerous owners on the river. In regard to the river road, they were able to gather agreements from some owners, contingent upon donation of an easement from Georgia Pacific, a major landholder in the area. The prospects for such a donation are favorable.

Amoco Site - This site was proposed for registration at the last meeting. Since the site is not threatened and the owner has no time limitations, the project has been given a lower priority.

The next item on the Agenda was NATIONAL HERITAGE TRUST. Mr. Kohlsaas discussed the National Heritage Trust and some of the implications it holds for the S. C. Heritage Trust. The relationship of state and federal historic and natural area preservation programs was discussed at length.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPENDIX I

The Heritage Trust Advisory Board considers the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area to be a Heritage area of the highest importance to the State and nation and urgently recommends that the Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism and Wildlife and Marine Resources do everything possible to bring it under suitable protection.