

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 3, 2001
CHERAW STATE PARK

Members Present

Terry Ferguson (Chair)
Julia Krebs (Vice-Chair)
Jon Leader
Richard Porcher
Rodger Stroup
Joel Felder (for Bob Showalter)
Charles Bradford
Billy McTeer (for Paul Sandifer)
Freddy Vang
Van Stickles (for John Durst)
Malloy McEachin
John Frierson

Others Present

Tom Kohlsaat
Gil Newberry
Stuart Greeter
Ken Prosser
Steve Bennett
Johnny Stowe
Chris Judge
Jamie Dozier
Mary Edmonds
Mike Foley
Gary Tennebaum
Doug Rayner

Members Absent

John Tucker
Bonnie Ammons
Tony Ganong

Terry Ferguson called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Approval of February 1, February 14 and April 9 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the February 1, February 14 and April 9, 2001 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meetings. The motion was approved.

Comments from the Director

In Dr. Sandifer's absence, Billy McTeer updated members on proposed budget reductions in the Department.

Van Stickles, Director of the State Park Service, welcomed everyone and expressed his concern about the future of park lands. He asked for assistance from Heritage Trust in examining ways to increase their protection. Dr. Ferguson pledged the support of agency personnel to work with them.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered Executive Session to discuss budget issues. They returned to regular session and voted to approve the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget with a increase in land protection expenditures. Congaree Bluffs and Childsbury were approved during previous telephone meetings.

Natural Areas Committee

1. Surveys: Freddy Vang reported that Steve Bennett gave a presentation on survey planning. He also said the Committee discussed issues regarding the mission of the program. Mr. Vang stated a list of survey priorities will be presented at the next meeting.

2. Rice Culture: Dr. Richard Porcher gave a presentation on the history in rice culture in South Carolina.

3. Deer Browse and Rare Plants: Dr. Doug Rayner gave a presentation on the effects of deer browse on rare plants.

Dr. Ferguson said these presentations are related to the role of Heritage Trust, especially from a management perspective. He recommended members think about that role and consider how management practices affect our preserves.

Cultural Areas Committee

1. Poinsett Bridge: Chris Judge explained a problem with a financial commitment from a partner in this project and the Committee as a motion recommended the commitment be omitted from the scope of the project. The motion was approved.

2. Ft. Lamar Monument: Mr. Judge informed members of a request from the Washington Light Infantry for a monument at Fort Lamar Heritage Preserve and the Committee as a motion recommended approval of the monument. The motion was approved.

Other Business

1. Stewardship: Johnny Stowe and Mr. Judge updated members on heritage preserve stewardship activities. Mr. Judge gave a separate report on the annual archaeological excavation at Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve.

2. Strategic Planning: John Frierson stated that the Committee had a list of conservation groups and they would like to begin meeting with these groups soon. He requested Freddy Vang, Chris Judge, Stuart Greeter and Tom Kohlsaas accompany them to the meetings. Mr. Frierson also requested Rodger Stroup and Jon Leader act as alternates. Dr. Ferguson stated he would like to have a script for participants to follow when addressing these groups.

3. DNR Habitat Initiative: Tom Kohlsaas reported that internal planning is underway and areas of consideration include forested land, open spaces and special places of interest to Heritage Trust.

4. Campsen Bill: Mr. Kohlsaas reported that some form of this conservation bill will likely be passed by the legislature this year; however, the Heritage Land Trust Fund will not be affected. He added that the bill came out of the Senate with no money attached to it, but it did garner a small percentage of the real estate documentary stamp tax fees from committee discussions in the House.

5. CARA: Mr. Kohlsaas stated that some form of this federal bill will likely to be passed again this year. He noted that the Natural Areas Committee did discuss using a portion of this money to begin a biological survey.

6. Jocassee Gorges: Billy McTeer updated members on activities at Jocassee Gorges and Dr. Ferguson stated that the essential character of the area must be defined to determine how much of the property should be dedicated as a heritage preserve.

As a final note, Dr. Stroup stated that the Cultural Areas Committee discussed the fact that property values are rising and we need to do more to promote the mission of Heritage Trust. He also stated that we need to foster more partnerships and increase management activities. Dr. Ferguson asked members to consider these issues and provide comments at the next meeting, which will be in Columbia on August 2, 2001.

Adjourn.