

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
HITCHCOCK WOODS FOUNDATION – AIKEN COUNTY
MAY 1, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT

Campbell Coxe (Chair)
Eric Emerson
Jake Rasor
Sonny King
Beth Grace
Bob Perry (for Alvin Taylor)
Ken Rentiers
States Clawson (for Bobby Hitt)
Tom Patton (for Gene Kodama)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Henry Fair (Vice Chair)
Julia Krebs
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)
Phil Gaines (for Duane Parrish)
Jonathan Leader
Randy Lowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Holling
Kay Daniels
Kathy Boyle
Bert Pittman
Sean Taylor
Meg Gaillard
Herrick Brown
Ken Prosser
Shannon Bobertz
Paul League
Emily Cope
Billy Dukes
Gary Burger
Harry Shealy
Patricia Corey
Randy Wolcott
Dorothy Bryan-Kanda
Suzi Kilgo
Christine Reichel
Eric Grande
Bennett Tucker
Courtney Conger
Elizabeth Hagood
Leah Crider
Yvonne Kling

Welcome

Dr. Harry Shealy, Chairman of The Hitchcock Woods Foundation, welcomed everyone to Hitchcock Woods and introduced trustees that were attending the meeting. He distributed information about Hitchcock Woods and the afternoon field trip.

Call to Order

Campbell Coxe called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and requested they introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the February 6, 2014, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Dr. King made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 6, 2014, meeting, as submitted. Mr. Clawson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Boeing Mitigation

Bob Perry, Chief of Environmental Programs at DNR, explained that Boeing plans to expand their operational facilities to produce additional airplanes. The expansion will result in substantial impacts to wetlands associated with the area. Mr. Perry distributed maps of the proposed mitigation strategy and noted it showed three parcels. He stated the linchpin tract for future protection is known as Keystone, which contains 1,682 acres, including 672 acres of wetlands. It is proposed for donation to DNR from the LowCountry Open Land Trust (LOLT). Mr. Perry added it could take up to five years for the conveyance to occur because LOLT plans to leverage additional conservation measures in the interim.

Elizabeth Hagood, Executive Director of the LOLT, introduced Leah Crider from Boeing. Ms. Hagood stated the project is not only an amazing partnership, but also a model of how to work collaboratively with the public and private sector to solve a problem via long-term conservation. She displayed a detailed map and discussed each parcel.

Ms. Crider reported the Boeing facility is beside the Charleston Airport and is landlocked. She noted the expansion will require the filling of 156 acres of wetlands. In a meeting with Mr. Perry, DNR Director Alvin Taylor, staff from LOLT, and other conservation groups, it was unanimous that these three properties should be preserved. Ms. Crider stated the tracts have been purchased and two of them will eventually go to the US Forest Service, and the remaining one to DNR. The properties total 4,000 acres, including approximately 2,000 acres of wetlands. Mr. Perry added that one of the tracts, known as Fairlawn B1, is the number one priority for acquisition in the southeast by the US Forest Service.

Ms. Hagood stated that the Corps has not given final approval for the project yet, but hopes formal approval of the permit will occur in June. Until that time, they will work with DNR to develop a management plan for the Keystone tract. The LOLT will be the owner, but they will co-manage it with DNR.

Updates & Comments

Ken Rentiers commended Heritage Trust staff for all their hard work creating the 40th anniversary poster for the Heritage Trust Program. He also thanked Meg Galliard, the new archaeologist, for all the work she has done and noted everyone was glad to have her on board.

Mr. Rentiers reported that Beaufort County had contacted DNR regarding Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve. They are interested in improving access to a boat ramp on the site and helping preserve the integrity of the fort. He noted the preserve is next to the Old Naval Hospital in Port Royal and access was limited after September 11. Mr. Rentiers said more information will be forthcoming. Also, communication from Greenville County was received regarding the transfer of a conservation easement at Linky Stone Park from Friends of the Reedy River to Upstate Forever. Mr. Rentiers noted they are not ready to move forward yet, but he wanted to inform the Board as the item will be on the agenda at a future date. Next, he distributed the most recent Heritage Trust revenue statement and stated it shows a more detailed financial history, which was requested by the DNR Board. Mr. Rentiers said the good news is that revenue is up and he would like to see it get back to the 2006 level, which was \$8.5 million.

Dr. Shealy showed an aerial photo of Hitchcock Woods and explained that it is completely surrounded by development with no public roads. There are 70 miles of trails available to the public for equine, pedestrian and carriage activity. As discussed at a previous HTAB meeting, Dr. Shealy reminded members about a proposed plan to widen a public roadway along the perimeter of Hitchcock Woods, which would have encroached into the property. He informed members that the plans have now been modified and the threat of encroachment has been abated. Dr. Shealy thanked the Board for their help in this matter. Randy Wolcott, Hitchcock Foundation board member, spoke briefly about Hitchcock Woods and the locations Board members would visit on the field trip. He reported that seven parcels had been gifted to Hitchcock Woods since the original 1989 dedication. Mr. Wolcott added that they are totally supported by donations with a budget of approximately \$450,000 per year.

Executive Session

At this time, Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

Dr. King made a motion that the Board return to regular session. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Clawson made a motion to approve the conveyance of a utility easement to Santee Electric Cooperative within the DNR's Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center in Georgetown County subject to reasonable restrictions to protect the preserved lands. Ms. Grace seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, August 7 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 335 of the Dennis Building in Columbia, SC.

Adjourn

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, *Dr. King made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Rasor seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.*

/k