

DAUFUSKIE ISLAND COUNCIL

Community Forum, Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 5:00 PM

Mary Field School (outside)

Call to Order: Council Chair Leanne Coulter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM with a quorum of members present.

Roll Call:

Present: Leanne Coulter, John Schartner, Roger Pinckney, Steve Hill, Kathy Aurichio,
Robert Levis

Absent: Tonie Meyers

Pledge of Allegiance

General Announcements:

- Council contacted Charles Hudgens who reports he has finally received DHEC approval for the general store at the County Landing. He has a building permit and expects to move forward soon.
- The bathroom in Mary Field school is no longer available to visitors. Due to COVID concerns, visitors are being directed to the restroom at Frances Jones park. The route is being marked with flags.
- Council is exploring erecting a new bulletin board at the Mary Field cluster mailbox area. Aaron Crosby has provided FUBAC's OK. Council will look to the community fund and island builders to help with the effort.
- Sea turtle team reported 65 nests on Daufuskie this year. Unfortunately, 23 nests have been lost due to predation primarily from armadillos. There remain 5 active nests. Overall, this year there have been 4,800 hatchlings. Last year there were 126 nests on the island.
- Chris James spoke to the importance of completing the 2020 census. She will soon begin canvassing, following up with various community homes to ensure an accurate census is completed.

Guest speaker: Bob Milie, DI Fire Department Deputy Chief

- COVID testing on Daufuskie went well last week with 226 persons tested. Thanks to sponsor HH Volunteers in Medicine and Dr. Carole Rizzo-Baum.
- Community conducted a successful beach sweep last weekend. Cleaning a large amount of debris and garbage from Daufuskie beaches.
- On September 19th a drug take back will be conducted from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the fire station. This is again sponsored by VIM.

- October 4th through 10th is fire prevention week. Unlike previous years, a group presentation will not be made. The fire team will be available to visit homes to provide individual sessions.
- The recent house fire at a Driftwood Beach home unfortunately consumed the whole building. DIFD and volunteers responded well, getting on scene in under 4 minutes. Luckily, they were able to protect neighboring homes and ensure no injuries. The Deputy Chief stressed golf court safety. He emphasized the need to follow manufacturer guidelines.
- Deputy Chief responded to several questions from the audience.

Public Forum #1: No comments

Community Happenings: Steve Hill provided an overview of upcoming events.

Council Updates:

- Ferry Embarkation: Earlier this year Buford County proposed a permanent ferry embarkation at CC Haigh landing on Pinckney Island. Over the past few months plans have evolved. It appears that a portion of CC Haigh landing will be directly impacted by construction on Hwy 278. County is now considering placing a temporary embarkation at CC Haig landing. DIC is working with County officials to ensure that any such temporary embarkation provides necessary safety, security, and access for all.
- Melrose Landing Tanks: Roger Pinckney reported it appears that DHEC is pursuing a two-step process towards mitigation of any harmful environmental impact by the abandoned tanks. First step will be evacuation of any residual fuel in the tanks, followed by digging up and disposal of the tanks.
- Fiber Optic Cable: Council-member Kathy Aurichio has been working with State Rep Jeff Bradley on this issue. Available state government funding to support rural internet service was identified. Working with Hargray it appears fiber optic installation on portions of the island is possible. Hargray reps will be on Daufuskie next week to describe the project and its area of coverage. They will also explain the timeline.

Public Forum #2:

- Community was reminded of the Beaufort County Zoning Appeal Board meeting on 24 October. The application for a sand mine off Haig Point Rd. is on the agenda. A DIC member will attend the meeting.
- Representative of MASA, medical transport service, spoke and announced that an information seminar will be conducted this weekend.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:58 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 5:00 PM