

Daufuskie Island Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 5:00 pm

DI Fire Station

In Attendance: Kathy Aurichio

Robert Ross

John Schartner

Roger Pinckney

Leanne Coulter

Pledge: Erin Quinn

General Announcements:

Fall Festival Roger Pinckney book signing will take place at Freeport beginning on October 16th beginning at 12:00.

A scarecrow challenge will take place this fall to raise funds for the Daufuskie Island School. Individuals, families, and businesses are encouraged to enter. The traditional hay wagon parade and candy giveaway will be held on Sunday, October 31st and will end at the fall festival located at D’Fuskie’s Store and Eatery. Scarecrows will be judged in four categories, games will be available for children, and a chili cook-off will be held. More information will be announced.

On Thursday, September 23rd, a meeting will be held to determine if a holiday fair will take place this year.

Daufuskie Island Council elections will take place in February. Information for this election will be sent out in November. Individuals from the community are encouraged to run for the council.

An update from Dr Carol Rizzo was given. There have been no new reported Covid cases on the island in months. 85% of Daufuskie Island residents are vaccinated against Covid. 86 individuals received flu shots during the clinic offered and held at the fire station.

Committee Reports:

Access, Easements and Roads Committee: Roger Pinckney

Roger Pinckney reported on the following:

Roads

The five-year plan for the roads on Daufuskie is to fix the roads we have currently and not to pave any new roads. There is a plan to fill holes in the Haig Point Road and to put a crusher- run surface on School Road.

There was a comment made that the current machinery to maintain roads is not adequate and that replacing the current machinery with a box plow might be better for road maintenance.

Access and Easements

Due to individuals being turned away from access points, a strongly worded letter from Beaufort County was sent to the Bloody Point POA stating that the easement providing access to Mungin Creek and the cemetery (contracted in May of 1989) is valid.

The county is taking steps to be sure Prospect Road remains open despite ongoing efforts to close part of the road.

The rules governing the county dock are being enforced. There is to be no overnight parking of cars or golf carts at the dock and boats are only allowed three-hour tie-up access. Therefore, most cars have now been removed, including golf carts. The county is now looking into ways to expand the dock.

Park: John Shartner

The final project for the playground portion of the park will take place later this week. Patrick Ford and Haig Point are working to take sand from the barge landing to the park. Later this week residents will be asked to bring rakes and shovels to spread out the sand.

In addition, money for park signage was donated by the Daufuskie Island Community Foundation, and the signs are currently being put in place. The playground also passed its final inspection.

The park committee is also looking into creating a trail walk with frisbee golf as part of the walk. County money for trail edging is not currently available.

The \$20,000.00 grant money for the park, including additional monetary and professional expertise contributions, was used to pay for the \$28,000.00 playground equipment and the numerous overall expenses totaling \$40,000.00-50,000.00.

A question was asked about whether or not the ball park was in the plan.

Also, the berm in the park came into question. There were questions about the removal of this berm. It became clear when the county administrators visited, the berm impeded a clear view of the park.

Whether or not the entire berm needs to be removed is a question for the council and the park committee.

Ferry: Leanne Coulter

The new ferry contract began on August 1st, 2021 and will end on July 31st, 2022. Included in the contract language is that Buckingham Landing is reserved for Palmetto Breeze pass holders, handicapped, passengers that require special accommodations, boat crew, mechanics, technicians, and county employees on special business.

The location of the embarkation center on Hilton Head/Bluffton is an ongoing project of Beaufort County. No decisions have been made.

Individuals commented on the professional look of the visitor center. The desk agent at the visitor center, Kate, needs a list of individuals' names and phone numbers for Fedex packages arriving at the center. There are currently many packages there.

Project reports:

DI Council 2021 annual goals: Leanne Coulter

The council is looking into the building of a multi-purpose building to house Beaufort County administrators (for example building inspectors), an office for the sheriff's deputies, a medical clinic, supplies, and an expanded mailbox facility. There is currently a property that abuts the fire station and is available for purchase through Pete Lang.

The council is working on the construction of bathrooms (perhaps with composting toilets and access for water and sewage via the Sandy Lane POA), the repair of the picnic pavilion and a grilling area, providing parking, and regular trash pick-up at the Beach Road beach access.

The council will also work on construction or repair of public restrooms at the public dock (perhaps using stainless steel sinks and toilets), and placing a sign on Haig Point Road indicating public restroom location, the playground, and the public dock/fishing dock.

A storage space is needed at the Frances Jones Park.

2020 Census data for DI: Kathy Aurichio

It is important to have a head count of tourists visiting the island. It was stated that this number might be six figures. Once identified, this is an important figure to highlight so that Beaufort County is aware for budgeting purposes. Daufuskie Island's number of 445 residents is up 7% from 2010. It was noted that not many individuals on the island

returned census forms so that the numbers that come out from the census will not be accurate as they pertain to Daufuskie Island.

Communications

Robert Ross commented on the need for access to the network for emergencies. He discussed how the amateur radio network could be used as an internet in case of emergencies. He suggested that the Boy Scouts could set-up a simulation practice of this communication network one day on Daufuskie. Robert and Chief Comparetta will discuss ways to make this simulation happen as a bigger community event.

Public Forum

One community member stated that the new Daufuskie Island website looks wonderful. It would be good, however, to make it compatible with smart phones.

Another member of the community stated that the Daufuskie Island of today is not the Daufuskie Island of five years ago. Our current infrastructure cannot handle the number of tourists that are currently visiting. It was then stated that the Beaufort County administrators are aware of this.

Chief Comparetta stated that his department is here for the community.

It was also stated that the sand mine proposal that was previously denied by the county, is permanently denied.