

# Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

March 19, 2019

**Call to Order:** Council Co-Chair Leanne Coulter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Leanne Coulter, Brandy Breese, Steve Hill, Roger Pinckney, Robert Levis, John Schartner

Absent: Sally Ann Robinson

**Pledge to Flag:** John Tarrant lead the Pledge of Allegiance

**Guest Speaker:** Council Member Steve Hill introduced guest speaker Greg Hunt from BC Mosquito Control; he was accompanied by Biologist Robert Cartner and Asst. Administrator Phil Foot. Greg reported that a mosquito truck operates from late evening to 6 am as needed and aircraft can treat Daufuskie in 25 minutes at sunrise. A helicopter is used for surveillance and to treat small areas. The big issue for Daufuskie is mosquitos. The problem arises from the salt-water habitats. They are very aggressive. BC Mosquito Control does not deal with no-see-ums (sand fleas). West Nile virus connected to mosquitos on Daufuskie has not been observed.

Greg reported three major challenges regarding spraying on Daufuskie:

- Three bald eagle nests – federal law prohibits flying during breeding season or within a certain range of their nests.
- Second challenge – three areas with beehives. One of the beehive owners does not have a problem with aircraft flying between sunset and sunrise.
- Third challenge – no spray zone requested by a resident which means all area within a set radius will not be sprayed.

Some suggestions Greg offered to help with mosquito breeding and protection:

- Discard any water filled containers.
- Bird baths change once a week and pet dishes once a day.
- Wear protective clothing and use insect repellent.
- Know the peak feeding time: one hour before and after sunset and sunrise.

If you have questions you may call 843 255 5800 or use the County Website.

Comments or questions:

- Roger Pinckney commented he was skeptical at first but found clothing with insect repellent is very effective.
- Chris Sutcliffe commented that permethrin spray can be purchased to spray on your clothing.
- Steve Hill asked about the mosquito forecast for this year. Greg stated the season can start early or start late. His agency is very proactive – they move on it and do not waste time. They have a surveillance laboratory where birds and mammals can be tested for West Nile virus.
- The question was asked – is there anything in the future being developed besides spraying. Greg stated that the measures proposed as of now are not viable.
- Steve Hill asked what the significance of a dead bird is. Greg reported that the West Nile virus is often first indicated in birds. He also reported that we have 57 different types of mosquitos. Each species has a different host. Each species has a preferred breeding habitat. It is a dynamic ecology. Not all carry diseases. West Nile virus mimics the common cold. (Fever, aches, headache, etc.).

**Public Forum #1** – No comments

**Community Happenings** – Council Member Steve Hill introduced Geoff Brunning from the DI Historical Foundation. Geoff reported the foundation was founded in 2001 by Rob Kennedy and Bruce Allen. The foundation owns the oyster house, carriage house and the museum and rents two schoolhouses. Their mission is to preserve and protect the incredibly important history of Daufuskie. Photographs and oral histories have been recorded and they have a treasure trove of history. Completing the restoration of oyster house is a major project this year. Sallie Ann Robinson will have access to the building for special events. The annual dinner is a week from today – next Tuesday, and the speaker will be discussing Daufuskie's role in the War on Independence. Annual membership is \$75 a year. The Foundation is always looking for volunteers for the museum. There is training available.

Council Member Steve Hill reported several additional community events.

**Treasurer Report:** Council Member Brandy Breese: No changes in the report.

### **Council Committees**

**Ferry Committee:** Council Member Brandy Breese

The next meeting will take place on Thursday March 28th at 5:00 at the school. Captain Richard will attend. A Police report was made for the theft of 4 catalytic converters at Buckingham Landing. It was determined that the lights were on during the robbery. It's been requested that security cameras be installed.

**DI Plan and Code Committee:** Council Member Leanne Coulter

Leanne reported the council is putting together a committee and we will be forming a meeting in the next few weeks - if you are interested in serving please let us know.

**Access, Easements and Roads Committee:** Council Member Roger Pinckney

John Coulter and Steve Hill will assist on this committee. The county only maintains 2% of the roads on Daufuskie. It is a myth that the county owns and maintains most of the roads. For details ask the committee or go to the GIS on the county website.

Roger reported on two ideas to address Prospect Road and while there is nothing specific going on right now they want to get ahead of the curve. The committee wants to have a photo essay of the road to document what is at stake and they want to record depositions from residents who are familiar with the use and history of these roads.

**Council Projects**

**Environmental Concerns:** Council Member Roger Pinckney discussed the Melrose Tanks: Back in July 13, 2015 the Dept. of Health and Environmental Controls levied a fine against Daufuskie Embarkment LLC. They were cited and fined \$35,350 for a list of offenses. They were ordered to pump the tanks, wash them out, or dig the tanks up or fill them with solid or inert material. This was never done. The tanks have been sitting there ever since.

DHEC was contacted and said the tanks were not leaking at this time. They stated there was 5,000 gallons of fuel in those tanks. If the tanks fail – it will impact the surrounding area including the location of the tanks, the salt marsh and access to our ferry dock. The Council thought it necessary to raise public knowledge and awareness of this issue. Island Packet and Savannah news received information and WTOC wants to run a story. The Bluffton Oyster Company is on board to raise awareness and interact with politicians to address the issue. Leanne reported that the issue of responsibility is complex – we will let the experts work on this.

DHEC has funds earmarked for these kinds of projects – however the subject of ownership needs to be determined. DHEC knows it is important and everyone is working on this. The ball is moving.

Melissa Davis commented she has been working with DHEC since 2013; her wells are located close to these tanks. The health of that marsh is important to wildlife. Melissa reported a great deal of information regarding the tanks and ways to remediate. Melissa gave Roger a packet of information that the council will copy and return.

**County Landing Restaurant/Store:** Council Member Leanne Coulter

Leanne reported specific details regarding the proposals for the County property formally known

as Marshside Mama's are public knowledge and information can be found on the Beaufort County Council's website under the Public Facilities Committee.

On October 31, 2018, three proposals were received by the County to lease the property. Pointed Feather, LLC was ranked number one by the evaluation committee. At the Public Facilities Committee meeting, held on March 4th, the Daufuskie Island Council asked (and it was agreed to) to add to the lease that the property continue to be used for Daufuskie Days in June, the Thanksgiving dinner and the Christmas Parade. The council does not have any specific knowledge of Pointed Feather's plans.

Roger asked if there was going to be a place for a general store. Leanne does not have an answer for that but will continue to ask questions.

Leanne reported specific details regarding the proposals are public knowledge and information can be found on the Beaufort County Council's website under the Public Facilities Committee.

#### **Public Forum #2**

Leanne received a call from a resident with concerns about the fire which took place on Church Road on February 6, 2019. The resident wanted to know what will be happening with the property where the burned building is still standing. A case number was issued regarding this. Leanne reported the fire department did not find anything suspicious. It will be a long process to resolve.

A question was raised regarding the parking at Buckingham. Brandy reports they should know more by the Ferry Committee on March 28th. They talked about using a trolley to shuttle people from the government building in Bluffton to the landing. Chris Sutcliffe reported that the tourists would use the trolley leaving more parking for residents.

Leanne recommended people to come to the Ferry meeting on the 28th.

Chris brought information packets to give away regarding getting your personal affairs in order.

Leanne adjourned the meeting at 7:05. It was seconded.