

Daufuskie Island Council Board Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2015, 5:30pm
Mary Fields School

Directors present: Bill Nickels, Len Pojednic, Mike Davis, Dickie Phelps, Janet Adams, Chuck Hunter, Charlie Small

Directors absent: John Schartner, Steve Hill

Meeting called to order: 5:35pm

Charlie Small began the meeting by thanking the 135 voters in the Daufuskie Island Council election on February 14, 2015. He described board member's revolving terms of 3 years.

Current three year terms: Chuck Hunter, Steve Hill, Len Pojednic

Current two year terms: Janet Adams, Mike Davis

Current one year terms: Charlie Small, Bill Nickels, John Schartner, Dickie Phelps (fulfilling the term of Mike Loftus)

Charlie encouraged people to consider running for the Daufuskie Island Council and listed 5 committees of Council this year and their chairs:

Island Communication - Dickie Phelps

Government Outreach - Steve Hill and Chuck Hunter

Municipal Incorporation and Other Options - Len Pojednic

Ferry - Steve Hill

Roads - Bill Nickels

A survey for all Island residents will be developed by Steve Hill, Janet Adams and Tina Fine

RV Ordinance

Chuck Hunter described the 2010 Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan, five years in the making, that brought the RV Ordinance forth. Details of the Ordinance will be discussed in detail with Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director, at the next Daufuskie Island Council meeting on Monday March 16, 2015.

Chuck also mentioned the Sustainable Planning Team (SPT) that will be made up of Island residents and property owners who will be appointed by the Beaufort County Planning Department.

Len, Dickie, Bill and Chuck all agreed that there are many questions that need to be answered and Chuck assured everyone that avenues for reviewing the Ordinance are clearly stated.

Committee Reports

Island Communication:

Dickie Phelps stated that communication on the Island has broken down. He believes that right or wrong, we need to talk about everything that happens here. He strongly encouraged people to participate in Council and other Island meetings to find out what's going on and hopes that people will join the Council's newly forming committees. "We are one community and should start acting like it."

Government Outreach:

Chuck Hunter stated that Senator Davis who attended the last DI Council meeting is committed to helping the Island resolve issues. A draft letter has been written to the Low Country Council of Governments requesting \$100,000 (from Beaufort County's 2-percent state accommodations tax fund) to pay for a transportation study for Daufuskie Island. Senator Davis is in full support of this effort. The Beaufort County attorney is concerned with how funds will be spent. Chuck identified key issues that align with funding eligibility: emergency transportation, emergency evacuation process and tourism.

When approved, the final version the letter will be posted on the DI Council website.

Municipal Incorporation and Other Options:

Len Pojednic stressed that this committee will study all options for Daufuskie Island to gain access to services that we deserve by right from Beaufort County. Incorporation is a lengthy and expensive process that would require a feasibility study and the review of any petition for incorporation according to the Municipal Incorporation statute.

Issues concerning incorporation include density, acreage and dwelling units. Daufuskie Island currently does not have the 1,667 dwelling units necessary for incorporation according to the statute. Other concerns include the cost of administration and infrastructure should we be able to incorporate.

The committee will have a set of recommendations prepared within 3 months to present to the Council.

Roads:

Bill Nickels met with Chief Ed Boys to review records of the previous Roads Committee (2013) that included Terri Painter and John Coulter. Road work (Robert McPhee) is currently underway to prioritize 5 roads. Beach Road has been identified as the easiest to work on. Certified letters have been sent to abutting property owners.

Bill described several problems with initiating road work: property lines run across the majority of our roads creating issues for work to be done by Beaufort County; FEMA will not help clear

non-county roads after extreme weather; In order to run water lines for public water, easements would be needed.

Bill also offered good news. See below under Other Business

Charlie Small concluded the meeting by reiterating his opening statements regarding the DI Council's renewed effort to reaching out to the community to join committees and attend meetings to actively and collectively resolve the Island's issues.

Open session:

The meeting was attended by 27 people.

A request was made by Terri Painter for more readily available minutes from the DI Council board meetings and committee meetings. Terri offered to post printed copies at Freeport, Marshside Mamas, Mary Fields School, Melrose and Bloody Point and suggested that someone post at Haig Point.

Charlie Small stated that minutes will be posted on the Front Porch eblast and that Steve Hill is working on a new website for the Council.

Concern was expressed by Terri Painter that since 1984, Daufuskie Island has been discussing the same issues.

Concern was expressed by David Hutton if our Beaufort County Council representative Roberts "Tabor" Vaux, Jr. is paying enough attention to us.

Minutes from the former DI Council Ferry committee will be supplied to Steve Hill by Aaron Crosby who stated that after the 5 year process Beaufort County spent 6 months reworking the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan to remove county obligations to Daufuskie Island.

Aaron also stated that there was a lot of input from the community 4-5 years ago when the DI Council committees were last active.

Fred Grant expressed concern about the influence that island development may have on his current lifestyle. He also said that there is a need for better communication.

Dickie Phelps expressed concern that paving the dirt roads on Daufuskie will significantly increase the speed of vehicles on those roads. He acknowledged that we have problems that are associated with living on an island with no bridge (ferry, mail delivery) He also recognized that change is going to happen but that if we stay engaged we can be involved in decision making.

John Wampler reminded everyone that there has been a ferry running since the 1970s and that parking on the Hilton Head side is a concern. He also offered up notes from the drafting of the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan.

Deb Smith called for transparency through regular communication and posting of agendas in advance of meetings and minutes shortly thereafter. She suggested that the DI Council communicate with Island residents through as many sources as possible - including postings at the Library at the Museum and the Melrose and Haig Point newsletters.

Deb Smith also requested that email addresses for the DI Council board members and the names of committee chairs be posted on their website.

Dickie Phelps offered to post minutes at the mailboxes. He reminded everyone that communication doesn't happen just one night per month but all month long. He urged the audience to get in touch with the committees to get their questions answered.

Other Business:

ROAD PATCHING PARTY on SUNDAY MARCH 8 at 2:00pm.

Next meeting - Monday March 16, 2015

Meeting adjourned: 6:15pm

Minutes submitted by: Jenny Hersch

Minutes submitted to Council for review on: Monday February 23, 2015 10:40pm