

**Daufuskie Island Council Meeting  
Mary Fields School  
July 18, 2017  
Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

Chuck Hunter  
Steve Hill  
Deborah Smith  
James Bayes  
Maureen Devine  
John Schartner  
Darnell Brawner

**Absent:**

Charlie Small  
Sallie Ann Robinson

A majority of the Council Members being in attendance, there was a duly constituted quorum.

Mr. Hunter noted that Council Member Sallie Ann Robinson was not in attendance because her sister, Lois Faye, passed away earlier in the day. A member of one of Daufuskie's most historic families, Lois grew up on Daufuskie, and will be buried here. On behalf of the entire community, the Council extends deepest sympathies to Sallie Ann and other family members.

Mr. Hunter said that the Council recently decided that we should emulate the county council by starting every Council meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. We are very grateful that Council Member James Bayes has arranged for Lucy Bell's Cafe to donate a U.S. flag and stand and Council Member John Schartner has donated a second flag and stand to the Council and the community. Thank you, James and John for making these generous donations. Chuck invited John and James to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **SPECIAL TOPICS/SPEAKERS**

### **1. Hurricane Preparedness**

Steve Hill introduced Lt Colonel Neil Baxley, Director of Beaufort County Emergency Management to deliver remarks on "Emergency Preparedness." Also present was Sgt. John Gobel, Daufuskie's representative from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

Lt Colonel Baxley advised everyone that when there is a mandatory evacuation and people choose NOT to leave, they are ignoring the best advice of experts and are breaking the law. The next hurricane could be much worse and lives could be at risk, including the lives of first responders who try to help. He said that Matthew was not even a Category 2 event by the time it hit Daufuskie. Failure to comply with future evacuation orders may leave people without access to medical attention and essential services for many days. "Are you prepared to survive in that type of environment for 7 or 8 days?"

Lt Colonel Baxley advised that residents should prepare an emergency evacuation plan, and that pets should be included in that plan.

He also provided some resources relating to emergency preparedness. They included:

An orange card for the Beaufort County toll free number for re-entry after an evacuation.

A free app available including [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) where one can create a profile, and when you dial 911, the responder will see all your information, such as medical issues, pets, physician's name, etc.

Daufuskie residents can call [800-963-5023](tel:800-963-5023) for the Beaufort County Hurricane Hotline for information about bad weather, available shelters, and when it is safe to return home after an evacuation.

There was a question from a public member to Sergeant Gobel about the windows at the Melrose Resort's Inn being shot out. "Is there a investigation?" The answer was "Probably." The next question was whether there is an investigation into the vandalism at the Bloody Point Resort. The answer was "Yes."

Chief Eddie Boys also shared materials relating to emergency event preparedness, including the 2017 Daufuskie Hurricane Guide. Additional copies of the Guide can be found at the Fire Station.

Mr. Hill showed a map with historical patterns of storm tracks, including several that were much more severe than Hurricane Matthew when it hit Daufuskie, such as in 1893 when thousands of county residents perished. There was a high tide during that hurricane, which was not the case with Hurricane Matthew. The community should be aware that the next hurricane could be much more catastrophic than Matthew and should act accordingly.

### Federal Off-Shore Drilling and Seismic Testing Proposal

Kate Schaefer, Director of Beaufort Office for the Coastal Conservation League presented information on the proposal by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Ms. Schaefer said that expanding offshore drilling near the Atlantic coasts including South Carolina would put fragile and diverse ocean ecosystems at risk and be bad for business, threaten coastal economies and lucrative industries, including tourism, recreation and fishing. She said that more than 100 East Coast communities (including over 25 South Carolina communities) have taken positions strongly opposing offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration. There is particular concern about seismic air gun blasting—an extremely loud and dangerous process used to search for oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean’s surface—because these activities threaten sea wildlife including whales. Should there eventually be drilling, the consequences of an oil spill would be catastrophic for the Atlantic coastal states. Congressman Mark Sanford opposed this measure and along with all members of the SC congressional delegation is the co-sponsor of legislation calling for a 10 year moratorium on seismic testing and off-shore drilling.

In response to a question from a public member, Ms. Smith said that three groups advocating for this proposal were invited to send a speaker or submit a statement, but that none replied.

There was a recommendation made by a member of the public that the Daufuskie Island Council oppose the off-shore drilling and seismic testing proposal. Mr. Hunter said that the Council would take a good look at this issue and it would be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

There were reports by several committee chairs:

### Amenities - Chair, Darnell Brawner

Mr. Brawner reported that he has completed a fountain and spigot by the playground at the county dock, and thanked Jeff Winholt for his assistance. Future projects include a viewing bench at the end of Turtle Beach Road and a fish cleaning station at the county dock.

### DI Plan and Code Committee - Chair, Deborah Smith

Ms. Smith said the committee met earlier in the day, and that she would defer to Beverly Davis and Sonny Timmerman (listed later on the agenda) for comments relating to an update of the DI Plan and Code review. She urged all Daufuskie Islanders to become involved in this important process, which will help determine what Daufuskie looks like in the future. She also reported that the Council's website now includes a page dedicated to the review process.

### Ferry - Chair, Steve Hill

Mr. Hill reported that the HP Ferry Company will be renewed for the school contract for another year. The public ferry contract is still being negotiated with the County, and the contract has been extended by one month, and may be extended another month. Mr. Hill also reported Palmetto Breeze representatives were here today for a successful visit and assisted a number of residents with questions and assistance in obtaining Palmetto Breeze passes.

### Resource Development Committee - Chair, James Bayes

Mr. Bayes reported that the committee had its kick-off meeting on Thursday, July 13. The committee's goal is to support the operation of the council and to benefit the Daufuskie Island community by supporting worthy projects. The committee decided that every year they would raise funds for a "signature project" and they are recommending to the full Council that the 2017 signature project is a playground for the new park. Mr. Baye's committee will be working closely with Ms. Robinson's committee (Historical and Cultural Preservation) on this project.

The committee will also support smaller projects, such as the projects undertaken by Darnell's amenities committee, and wants to raise funds for the Council's ongoing operation expenses.

The name of the committee was changed from Fundraising to Resource Development because the members want to do more than just raise funds. They also want to encourage volunteer help for various projects, and in-kind donations. The committee will be developing a "wish list" for those donations.

There was a suggestion that the Council sponsor a fundraising event during the solar eclipse, and this is being explored.

Mr. Bayes thanked all the members of the committee and encouraged other residents to come together to help, either with funding or volunteer help, on the various projects.

## **County Dock Buildings - RFP Issue**

Mr. Hill reported that the county has issued an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the sale or lease of the property currently occupied by the Marshside Mama's restaurant and the DI co-op store. The Council has earlier passed a resolution expressing concern about the proposed sale/lease, and then after the RFP was published, issued a statement calling on the county to withdraw it. The statement also called for extending the lease of the Marshside Mamas property with the Daufuskie Co-Op for 5 more years, during which time Beaufort County should work with the Daufuskie Island Council and the island community to develop a long-term plan for the property.

The Council will continue to closely monitor this issue and work to retain the property with the Daufuskie community.

## **Francis Jones Community Park**

Mr. Hunter reported that construction has begun on park amenities and trails. The well has been started, and some clearing has been performed to prepare for the trail. Mr. Hill also reported that Ms. Robinson is working on a request for grant funding building out the park, in the past requested for such things as tables and grills through the county accommodations tax program.

## **Community Trash Center Problems**

Mr. Brawner reported that BC officials visited the Daufuskie dump a few days ago and realized they are going to have to do something. He requested assistance in installing logs to discourage dumping on private party and also signage. There is concern that containments will get into the streams nearby. Ms. Devine pointed out that the issue is a health concern as well. Improperly disposed of trash attracts rodents. Mr. Brawner has also suggested we get staffing from the county to help with the situation.

## **Status Report: DI Plan Review Process**

Beverly Davis who along with Sonny Timmerman who are providing pro bono support for the review of the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code, reported that the first community workshop was well attended and important information was gathered that will serve as a foundation for the Plan's vision statement. Beverly provided handouts from that workshop. Earlier in the day, the Project Advisory Committee (the DI Plan and Code Committee) voted unanimously that the draft vision statement based on the workshop's results be released to the entire community for comments. There was change that was made at a committee member's request and that is that the term "barrier island" was changed to "sea island" to describe Daufuskie. The survey will be shared through SurveyMonkey, as well as hard copies at various island locations for public input, and they would be visiting with some local residents who were not able to fill out the survey themselves. Monday, August 28th is being targeted for the next community workshop, at which time existing conditions as well as character areas would be developed. When the date/time/location is finalized, that workshop will be publicized through a variety of sources. The survey will be available for 3-4 weeks.

All project materials will be posted on the Daufuskie Island Council's website.

## **Melrose Daufuskie Beach Properties Cottages**

Steve Hill reported that a County attorney has told him that action is proceeding regarding a collection of vacant cottages on Melrose. The building codes department has sent out inspectors to look at the deteriorating and dangerous conditions of these cottages. 3 cottages have been identified by the county as candidates for being classified as "unfit" (not condemnation) and subject to intervention by the county: #66, #104 and 108 Avenue of Oaks. This can be a lengthy process requiring notifications. Question: Ms. Smith asked "Did they come out and look at all the cottages? If so, wondering why more properties weren't identified." Mr. Hill said that

they did not feel the Melrose Inn had deteriorated to the point of being included in this category. If anyone feels additional properties should be included in that category, they should send photos to the Council's secretary, Ms. Smith, at [debsmith1000@gmail.com](mailto:debsmith1000@gmail.com), and the Council will send those photos on to this official. That will start the process going. A member of the public wondered if some of these cottages violated the life safety code, especially as it pertained to fire potential, and Mr. Hunter said that he would consult with Chief Boys on that issue.

## **Public Forum**

Laura Winholt, former president of the DI Conservancy, reported that the Conservancy in 2008 and 2009 identified numerous areas of dumping on the island, and they catalogued and photographed the sites, and contacted the owners. They learned a lot, including that a group called Palmetto Pride to keep Beaufort County available and is available as a resource to fight littering in SC, and that there is a DHEC person assigned to Daufuskie who can be called for assistance. Whenever someone witnesses illegal dumping, or finds identifying information in illegally dumped trash, that person should report it and the offender can be fined a substantial amount, depending on the amount and weight.

She feels that this is important. People can turn their heads and just focus on clean-up efforts, but she believes that community members need to take a stronger stance in reporting illegal litterers. She referenced a recent dumping of an entire contents of their home on private property adjoining the trash center. Mr. Brawner mentioned a small amount of stuff. Ms. Winholt, said no, she's talking about someone dumping the contents of an entire household on private property right next to the dump.

A question was asked about why cameras couldn't be monitored. Ms. Winholt said that this illegal dumping is occurring all over the island, not just the dump. Another question was asked about who can use the dump, and it was clarified that the dump is for household trash for the island's residents (except for HP which has its own trash center), but is not to be used for contractor debris. Ms. Smith said people must know who was responsible.

The question was asked again about the use of cameras. Mr. Schartner said that county officials had told him that once offenders spot the cameras, they are immediately shot out. Mr. Brawner said that the best trap is one no one can see. There was discussion about a specific case of a property owner who discarded some household items from the home of a deceased resident, and

who had been reported to the county. It was felt that this wasn't fair, as it was not commercial waste, but household.

Ms. Winholt said again what a problem the islandwide dumping practice is, and said that putting trash illegally in dumpsters is one thing, but that dumping elsewhere was another. She said that the Conservancy had documented 37-40 sites throughout the island of large volumes of illegal dumping.

Mr. Bays said that you can see all the items that had been discarded on the ground, and that could have been put in the dumpsters.

There was additional discussion about the discarding of trash around the Francis Jones dumpsters location, and Ms. Smith noted that some trash is getting bulldozed into an adjoining stream and getting into the storm water system. A public member said he thought the problem had gone on too long, not only the dumping but the littering. On Hilton Head there are signs that say "No Littering: \$1000 or 30 days in Jail." There is not one sign on this island that says no littering. Maybe Palmetto Pride or some one else could help us get some signs to discourage people from littering. It's all over the island.

Mr. Brawner said he didn't think it was an educational issue. The public member disagreed with that, and said that there is a sense with some people that when they come here it's the Wild West. There's no law and order here, and we need reminders for people that we are part of civilization. It's our island, and it's getting trashed every single day. Ms. Smith said that Council Member Robinson's Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee has proposed a "Keep Daufuskie Beautiful" campaign. Ms. Smith suggested a related campaign called "Pick Up Daufuskie" so that visitors and residents alike would take a pledge to pick up one piece of trash every time they are out. The public member referenced a previous "Adopt a Road" program that many in the road had volunteered with.

Mr. Hunter said we want to be aware of this issue and remind people to be responsible, and to ask Darnell to report problems to the county, but we need to be aware that if we are reporting issues to the county, and they come over here and find half-empty dumpsters, and trash on the ground, they will be less willing to help us. It's important to the island and we need to step up and we need to rein in people who are not doing the right thing.

Laura said that Palmetto Pride has an app that provides a form to fill out when you witness littering. If you put the person's name in, there are enforcement officers who will follow-up.

A public member said again that electronic surveillance needs to happen and that there should be signs telling people that they are being watched. Mr. Brawner said that if cameras are being put in place he wouldn't want to tell anyone because then they would know they were there. The county has caught people, but the consequences have been weak. Dumping on private property can cause more serious repercussions. He said that several months ago he and Mr. Hill met with a county official about the trash situation, and that the official said that our problem was that we have enough garbage. Maybe now they are realizing there are other problems that they can address. For example, almost all other county facilities are manned so he is hoping that they will man the Daufuskie site. One way or another, he wants something to happen, because something is better than nothing.

Ms. Smith said that the Francis Jones trash center was never meant to be a permanent trash collection site. She also said that a great amount of the land was donated by a native island for a beautiful park, and now we have an unsightly dump, and it makes it more difficult to place a ball park there.

Public member: Why can't beaufort County be forced to man the station? Ms. Smith said she 1000 percent agreed.

Another public member said in some areas there were senior volunteers who help at trash centers...perhaps that would work here? Mr. Brawner said that the county has part-time workers who are paid \$10 an hour, at 29 hours a week. He asked county officials if we can get a couple of those spots. There is an added benefit to the person to be able to retrieve useful items that are discarded. He understands the desire to move the trash center elsewhere, but for the time being would like to make the current site better while we work towards a final goal.

A public member said he can't think of anywhere else in Beaufort County where the ratio of county employees to residents is lower. For the short term, Ms. Smith suggested a Council task force to look at this issue, that would works with Mr. Brawner and members of the public to study these issues and come up with proposed solutions that the Council could take to the county. Mr. Hunter said that would be up to Mr. Brawner and he would support that effort. Mr. Brawner said he would be fine with doing that.

A member of the public said that the road conditions aren't any better, and also asked why the sides of the road were not being cleared of vegetation any longer. It used to be trimmed up and looked nice. John said that Greg Hutton was having trouble with rain issues. The same member said that there continues to be big chunks of asphalt down the side of the Church Road and School road, and also probably on other roads but she's not sure which ones. Ms Smith said that it seems there is more now than previously. (Inaudible comment)

A public member asked if there a functioning roads committee because if there were a roads committee that met every month they could address this. He doesn't know if there is one because this issue has come up at least two months in a row. Ms. Smith said that there is a Roads Committee, chaired by Mr. Schartner, and they have addressed this issue and that much has been accomplished, but progress was still needed. The member asked if the committee met regularly. Mr. Schartner said they are trying to put something together; but it's been difficult to get everyone together, and Greg (Hutton) is busy, but that perhaps he could publicize a meeting on NextDoor and elsewhere to get more interest. The public member said that if the committee had a regularly scheduled time such as the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm, then the committee and interested public members could work on this issue and report back to the Council with proposed solutions.

The first public member said that the solution is that the asphalt needed to be picked up and removed. She said they were told FEMA was going to take care of it but they left. And now whoever put it down should pick it up. If she could pick it up and put it in front of Haig Point, she'd do it in a minute. Mr. Hunter said "Why would you do that? The county put it there." The public member replied "Because it came from your area, and you're responsible for it because you were the contractor." Mr. Hunter said that Beaufort County put it down, and she said no, it was Joe Davis who was hired to do that.

Mr. Brawner said that it had been pointed out to him that the FEMA trucks had put much wear and tear on the paved roads, and is there any way to recoup some of the street repair work from FEMA. It was also pointed out that we now have a lot more regular vehicles on the roads. The public member said that she thinks whoever dumped it should pick it up; and it's been too long. She also said that "we need our ditches back" and whenever it rains the water goes onto people's properties, including Church Road

She also said "We have had these conversations at other meetings, can you not put in in the minutes, because every time we ask these questions they

don't show up in the minutes." Ms Smith said that she would take responsibility for that since she did the minutes. The omission wasn't intentional, that she tried to include everything and the meetings were recorded. She also said that the draft minutes are sent out for other council members to review and revision. She will make a point of making sure that future minutes are accurate in this regard.

There being no further business, Mr. Hunter adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

\*\*\*\*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Smith, Council Secretary  
Approved on 8/15/17