

Scott Creek Committee Minutes

June 29, 2012

3:00 PM

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM

Present: Andrew Albanesi, Bill Carlisle, Al Gantt, Dean Habegger, Nancy Sandel, Patrick Brown (Building Official-ex officio), Bob Doub (Utilities Director-ex officio) and Iris Hill (Town Administrator-ex officio)

Introductions were made from all members. Andrew Albanesi, a property owner on Lybrand, has extensive project management experience and understands hydrology and government agency protocols. Al Gantt, a property owner on Scott Creek Drive, managed and operated his own business and has served on various committees. Dean Habegger, a property owner on Jungle Road, has a BS degree in Botany and many years in the engineering field. Nancy Sandel, a property owner on Lybrand Street, has county council experience and has served on numerous boards and committees. Bill Carlisle, a property owner on Lybrand, owned and operated his own business for over 20 years. All expressed interest in restoring the Scott Creek Basin and many had historical knowledge regarding the area. Town staff stated they would assist in facilitating the committee to meet their goals.

A handout was provided to the members of the committee regarding the causeway and the proposed replacement of culverts with a bridge by DNR in 2009.

Dean Habegger read the purpose and duties of the committee from the Bylaws as approved by Town Council. The Committee is to recommend to Council and assist Council and Town Administrator with solutions and funding. The committee does not represent the Town or the Council.

The first order of business was to select a Chairperson to officiate the meeting.

Al Gantt nominated Nancy Sandel and Dean Habegger as co-chairpersons as they are the only members who reside on Edisto full-time. Bill Carlisle seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously. This will require the Bylaws be amended to allow this designation.

Discussion ensued regarding the scope of project. The consensus of the committee was the project should encompass the Scott Creek Basin and they needed to determine how best to achieve the overall purpose. General conversation ranged from permitting the Scott Creek Drive project as currently designed to looking at the entire system to include the causeway at 174, Scott Creek drive, causeway to Island Cove, and fishing shack causeway. Most likely a study would be necessary on the basin to determine what components would be necessary to restore Scott Creek prior to permitting, funding and implementation. Possible avenues of support for the study are ACE Basin Heritage Trust, SCDNR, the Ace Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve, Edisto Island Open Land Trust, Edisto Island Preservation

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Alliance, FRESpace, Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club, Representatives in State and federal government.

Administrator Hill asked Dean Habheggar to read the Bylaws regarding contacting outside agencies. The Bylaws are located on the Town's website at www.townofedistobeach.com under government/committees.

The committee decided that prior to moving forward they needed to decide on a defined scope outlining steps necessary to achieve the purpose of the committee as defined by Council with the potential of utilizing various subcommittees.

Andrew Albenesius volunteered to work on the scope as his background is project management. The committee agreed by consensus.

Additional discussion regarding grant opportunities ensued as the Bylaws stated the committee should also look at funding solutions. Suggestions for grant possibilities were through Internet searches such as Grants.gov, US Fish and Wildlife and DHEC. Nancy Sandel felt that foundations should also be considered. Al Gantt volunteered to contact Greg Brown, who spoke at the Scott Creek Public Hearing, to see of other grant opportunities he may know of. Andrew Albenesius stated he felt that project benefits fall into three categories: Public Safety (access after natural disaster), Environmental (ecosystem) and Economic (property values).

Andrew Albenesius and Dean Habheggar would research possible academic resources such as USC, Clemson, CofC.

The committee asked staff contact DHEC and find out if anyone has undertaken a project to restore a causeway with a bridge. They also asked for staff to see if they could find a copy of a Powerpoint presentation from 2006 presented by DNR at the Interpretive Center that showed historical changes of Scott Creek.

Also discussed was the need to understand mitigation credits and see if funds for mitigation could be used to fund this project.

Administrator Hill stated she would provide the group with the amount of funding that remains for the project.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 3 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.