

MINUTES
SCOTT CREEK COMMITTEE
August 3, 2012

Present: Dean Habegger, Nancy Sandel, Al Gantt, Bill Carlisle, Andrew Albenesius (called in conference call), Iris Hill (Town Administrator Ex Officio), Bob Doub (Utilities Director Ex Officio), and Patrick Brown (Building Official Ex Officio)

Dean Habegger called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Nancy Sandel moved to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2012, meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Carlisle and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Administrator Hill stated that the balance in the Scott Creek account is \$3,250. These funds came from Council approval for stormwater funds from alcohol permitting fees and have been earmarked for Scott Creek.

Administrator Hill stated that she received an email from David Whitaker stating there is a potential source for funding through the US Fish and Wildlife Agency but it has already passed the deadline this year. It is possible next year this same funding will be available. She also has spoken with Jason Ayers and it is a possibility that there may be some other funding available. We will know more about this after August 13th.

A copy of the power point presentation done by SC DNR was given to all members for review. Administrator Hill stated that she was told the point on the causeway was arbitrarily chosen and that it could easily be expanded upon.

Al Gantt stated that he has spoken with Greg Brown on 2 occasions and Mr. Brown was hoping to get back with Mr. Gantt prior to this meeting because he has requests out, but he was not able to get back with him before the meeting. Mr. Brown did state that under one of the programs he is pursuing it would be an 80% federal grant fund if it is approved. Edisto Beach would have to come up with the other 20%. The federal funds are granted after the establishment of a feasibility study and estimate of costs. He also wanted to know if the Highway Commissioner for Edisto Beach has been involved in this project. Administrator Hill stated that the Highway Commissioner has not been involved. He also stated that Edisto Island Open Land Trust might have some leverage in getting things like this done. Administrator Hill stated that US Fish & Wildlife has been in touch with Edisto Island Open Land Trust and that is on hold until after August 13th. Nancy Sandel stated that she doesn't think the EIOLT does this because they are more of a stewardship trust and she doesn't think this is on their agenda. Mr. Albenesius stated that we need to figure out how to get funds.

Dean Habegger's wife works at the Citadel where she contacted one of the professors in the biology department who has worked on some grants and he turned her back over to Danny Gustafson who is interested in participating. Mr. Albenesius tried to contact some of the other colleges but did not have much success. He will continue in his attempts to contact them. He will also try to contact Rudy Manke.

New Business:

Mr. Albenesius stated that we, first of all, need to finish the study work that is required and/or extrapolate the study that DNR did to the other causeways and then do preliminary conceptual permitting and set the basis for the subsequent phases. How to get funding to do this? Phase I needs to be funded and then go out to proposals for work to be done. The next step is to take this document and improve it because it still has holes in it. Then go to Council and say this is where we need to go forward and this is what we need for funding. Then solicit bids and get resumes and make an informed decision on which we need to contract with. Then try to get the funding (possibly through Edisto Beach) that we need to go forward with the appropriate permitting.

Administrator Hill stated that in the Phase II Objectives she did not know if DOT accepts plans from outside sources for the design of a bridge. Administrator Hill also questioned whether most of the funding would be for restoration/biological impacts or for storm water/hazard mitigation. She said the source of funding would be determined on where it would be used most.

The big key is to determine the cost to do step one to seek funding from the Council.

Administrator Hill will get Patrick Brown to research who has ownership of the causeways and marsh from Scott Creek Drive to Hwy. 174. Engage the owners/stakeholders because they should have interests in the project also.

Mr. Albenesius asked Nancy Sandel to continue her work on the potential funding sources and do a summary that can be attached to Phase I Objectives. He also asked Administrator Hill to summarize a "Role of Responsibility" as an additional attachment. Plan Views and Utilities are also something that would need to be summarized and attached. As far as the Project Benefits are concerned, Dean Habegger will take over expanding on this and organization.

Mr. Albenesius was given permission to talk to Mr. Whitaker with DNR to get contacts for the study.

The next meeting will be Friday, either the 21st or 28th of September at 1:00 pm.

Nancy Sandel moved to adjourn, seconded by Al Gantt. The motion carried unanimously.

bh