

**Northern Beaufort County Regional Plan Implementation Committee
Executive Conference Room
Beaufort County Administration Building
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC
January 22, 2016
9:30 a.m.**

Members:

Robert Semmler, Beaufort County Planning Commission Chair (Chairman)
Joe DeVito, Metropolitan Planning Commission Chair (Vice-Chairman)
Jerry Cook, Town of Yemassee Mayor
Gerald Dawson, Beaufort County Council
Vernon DeLoach, Town of Port Royal Council
Mary Cordray, Beaufort County School Board Chair
Brian Flewelling, Beaufort County Council
Alice Howard, Beaufort County Council
Billy Keyserling, City of Beaufort Mayor
William McBride, Lowcountry Council of Government
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort Council
Samuel Murray, Town of Port Royal Mayor

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2015, MINUTES ([backup](#))
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
5. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LADY'S ISLAND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE AREA AROUND SEA ISLAND PARKWAY FROM SAMS POINT ROAD TO CHOWAN CREEK (Chairman)
6. RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION PROGRAM – UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF BRINGING PASSIVE PARKS ON-LINE (Anthony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director)
7. STATUS OF JLUS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (Ginnie Kozak, Lowcountry Council of Governments)
8. REPORTS
 - A. Status of Spanish Moss Trail
9. ROUND THE TABLE COMMENTS
10. OTHER BUSINESS: Next Meeting: Friday, March 25, 2016 at 9:30 a.m., Executive Conference Room, Beaufort County Administration Building, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC
11. ADJOURNMENT

Northern Beaufort County Regional Plan Implementation Committee Meeting
Executive Conference Room, County Administration Building
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC 29902
September 25, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Joe DeVito, Chairman, Northern Regional Plan Implementation (NRPIC) Committee and Metropolitan Planning Commission; Gerald Dawson, Beaufort County Councilman; Brian Flewelling, Beaufort County Councilman; Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilman; Billy Keyserling, City of Beaufort Mayor; William McBride, Lowcountry Council of Governments; Mike McFee, City of Beaufort Councilman/Mayor Pro-Tem; and Samuel Murray, Mayor of Town of Port Royal.

Members Absent: Jerry Cook, Town of Yemassee Mayor; Vernon DeLoach, Town of Port Royal Councilman; Bill Evans, Beaufort County School Board Chairman; and Robert Semmler, Vice-Chairman, Northern Regional Plan Implementation (NRPIC) Committee and Chairman, Beaufort County Planning Commission Chair

Staff Present: Linda Bridges, Town of Port Royal Planning Administrator; Anthony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director; Ginnie Kozak, Lowcountry Council of Governments; Eric Larson, Beaufort County Environmental Engineering Director; Robert Merchant, Beaufort County Long-Range Planner; and Barbara Childs, Administrative Assistant to the County Planning Director.

Other Attendees: Carol Crutchfield, Beaufort School District; Jason Mann, USMC Air Station representative; and Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Chairman.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Joe DeVito called the Northern Regional Plan Implementation Committee (NRPIC) meeting to order at approximately 9:33 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. DeVito led those assembled with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

REVIEW OF NRPIC MEETING MINUTES: The May 22, 2015, meeting minutes were reviewed. County Councilman Brian Flewelling made a motion, and City of Beaufort Councilman Mike McFee seconded the motion, to accept the May 22, 2015, meeting minutes as written. The motion carried (FOR: Dawson, DeVito, Flewelling, Howard, McBride, McFee, and Murray; ABSENT: Cook, DeLoach, Evans, Keyserling, and Semmler).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. DeVito noted that he would hold off his report until later in the meeting.

REVISITING THE NORTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY REGIONAL PLAN

Mr. DeVito asked the committee members to review the Northern Beaufort County Regional Plan. He noted that a lot of the plan had been completed. One section about parks needed work. The Committee added the parks section to work on, but put it down to work on other items. Mr.

DeVito noted that the City of Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling had brought up the park issue in the past. Mr. DeVito noted that transportation was another issue to be addressed. He felt that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) did not support the visions of the Committee. He wondered if the Committee was the group to formulate a common goal with what we, the governments represented in the Committee, want our roads and transportation network to look like.

The Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) does the transportation plan. Ms. Ginnie Kozak noted that the transportation model will be re-run. County Councilwoman Alice Howard noted that parks management was a huge issue to tackle.

Note: Mayor Billy Keyserling entered meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Mr. DeVito said since LCOG was doing the transportation modeling, the Committee would await the data.

Mayor Keyserling noted that the County was considering a consultant. The City of Beaufort did not need a consultant since they knew where their parks were located and who used the parks. He noted that the Hilton Head Island Town Council did not support such a study. Such a study needs support from south of the Broad River. The Southern Regional Plan Implementation Committee is dormant without a chairman. Among the four mayors of the Southern Committee, Mayor Keyserling suggested contacting them to reactivate the Committee. He suggested that Scott Marshall, the County Parks and Leisure Services (PALS) Director, talk to the group.

Mr. Anthony Criscitiello noted that the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board consultant Beaufort County Open Land Trust will be looking at passive parks—which will be active or passive parks, etc. Crystal Lake and Fort Fremont have architectural plans. Okatie Park, along with the Town of Bluffton, is being considered. Mr. Criscitiello noted that a theme must be identified for each park. Operation and maintenance costs must also be considered. The Planning Department is not a park operating entity. Councilwoman Howard noted that active parks also should be considered.

Mayor Keyserling noted that talking about apples and oranges that may become fruit juice. He suggested a charge for parks--whether tax bill, or however. He wondered if the accommodations tax (ATAX) could be involved. The City of Beaufort noted that 80% of their speeding tickets go to the state. Is there a financing matter that takes a regional approach rather than what benefits the neighborhood?

Mr. DeVito noted that two paths were mentioned. Councilman Brian Flewelling noted that the Waterfront Park brings tons of income for the surrounding businesses. However, the Rail-Trail or Fort Fremont would not bring much income; so he did not see why the Southern residents should be asked to support the Waterfront Park. The City of Beaufort has identified 101 sites related to the reconstruction era. Southside is a neighborhood, not a regional, park. A Parks Commission is not feasible because laws are not in place as it was in the past. Mr. DeVito said if south of Broad River can get involved in joint discussion of parks; The Rural & Critical Land

Preservation Program (RCLPP) should also be included. Beaufort County Open Land Trust should be involved to determine what is allowed or not on the properties purchased through the RCLPP. Councilwoman Howard noted that the Town of Port Royal had a skate board park as a regional draw.

Mayor Keyserling noted that the mayor's coffee is to share overlapping concerns and needs at least quarterly. Mr. Criscitiello noted that staff committees are a significant undertaking and the County Planning department is not able to staff another committee. Mayor Keyserling noted the 101 reconstruction sites are throughout the County, not only in the City of Beaufort. He noted that the sites were classified by color—green there is something to see, yellow is it is in development, and red there is nothing at the site. He noted that landscaping and shared waste collection showed cooperativeness between the municipalities—City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal.

Mr. DeVito asked for a presentation from the RCLPP. He does not have to wait until the next Committee meeting in November. He asked that the Planning staff schedule a meeting for the presentation.

Mayor Keyserling noted that resilience to sea level rise is another concern to be addressed. He mentioned a meeting where he had spoken at recently regarding that concern. He noted that at the LATS meeting he queried building more roads to move residents away from the floods, but there are no plans to build revetment to prevent flooding.

The Committee must update the Northern Regional Plan. Money is needed to update the plan.

REPORTS

A. **Joint Land Use Study (JLUS):** Ms. Ginnie Kozak of Lowcountry Council of Governments noted that the Committee at its March 27, 2015, meeting passed a resolution endorsing both studies—the Beaufort Air Station and the Parris Island Recruit Depot. The Town of Port Royal has adopted the studies; the County and the City of Beaufort are in the process of adopting the studies. The consultants and the Department of Defense agencies involved were pleased by the adoption process. The Committee worked efficiently with the consultants and the project was completed on time and under budget. The Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense noted that they had set aside additional money for the implementation of the JLUS. Ms. Kozak cautioned that the new AICUZ (Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone) may cause some difficulty. Mr. Criscitiello noted that the implementation of the JLUS included the new AICUZ map.

B. **Status of Spanish Moss Trail:**

- Mr. Robert Merchant stated that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) approved the selection of Llewellyn Construction for the construction work on phase 5 (Broad River Boulevard to Depot Road). Construction will begin in July 2015, focusing on the bridge work first, and anticipate completion in the fall of 2015.
- Mr. DeVito noted that from the Friends of Spanish Moss Trail (hereafter known as “The Friends”) perspective there had been some maintenance work along the trail, cooperatively performed by the County, City of Beaufort, and Beaufort-Jasper Water and

Sewer Authority. 46 youth from the South Carolina Youth Conference were housed at USC-B and volunteered their time to pick up litter, clipped overhanging branches, weeded, and spread mulch at the trail this past weekend. He noted that Eliza Hill of the City of Beaufort was on site to give advice regarding care of the flower beds. Mr. DeVito noted that the first water fountain is almost completed near the depot. The May 7th fundraiser was rained out, but another will occur to raise operational dollars for the Friends. The Friends are now looking at Sector 7 from Roseida Road on out toward Whale Branch River and have begun talks with Clarendon Farm. Sector 2 in Port Royal is awaiting the sale of the port; the Friends have a complete “shovel ready” design. The Friends Board is looking at future plans of connectivity outside the trail to the community. Discussion included clarification on the Sectors 7 and 8 routes, clarification on the McLeod property involvement in Sector 8 or 9, the possible fundraising difficulty for sectors beyond Highway 116/Laurel Bay Road, connecting the trail to the McTeer bridge, the formation/funding of a historic sign committee for historic markers along the trail, the formation of a directional sign committee for signage along the trail, receiving grant funds for an app about the trail, the trail being highly rated on Trip Advisor, proposing enhancing the trail on Highway 116 and connecting it to the rail-trail for a connection from Laurel Bay housing to Parris Island, and a suggestion to use the Air Station Construction Squadron to enhance the existing trail along Highway 116.

ROUND THE TABLE COMMENTS: No comments were offered.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Scheduled Committee Meeting: Friday, May 22, 2014, in the Executive Conference Room, Beaufort County Administration Building, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort SC 29902.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Keyserling made a **motion**, and Councilwoman Alice Howard seconded the motion, **to adjourn the meeting**. No discussion occurred. The motion **was carried (FOR: Dawson, DeLoach, DeVito, Flewelling, Howard, McBride, and Murray; ABSENT: Cook, Evans, Keyserling, McFee, Semmler)**. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Note: The video link of the May 22, 2015, Northern Regional Plan Implementation Committee meeting is: http://beaufort.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=2141