

Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

May 18, 2021

Council Members Attending:

Leanne Coulter

Steve Hill

Kathy Aurichio

Roger Pinkney

John Schartner

Meeting called to order at 5:03 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Vogel.

A member of the community inquired why the frequency of meetings was changed to only one public meeting every two months. The Member of Council replied that it had been determined that with the slow speed the government works, that a public meeting every other month would allow for less repetition of information. The Member explained that no votes were taken on any subject during the non-public meetings, but only discussions took place and as such, a public meeting held monthly was not necessary.

Another member of the community pointed out that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) states that all meetings of this nature must be public.

Council brought forward a Motion that only bi-monthly meetings be held.

A member of the audience pointed out that Roberts Rules states that all meetings may be held as long as there is public notice as to the date, time, and location of said meeting.

Ms. Coulter reported on her attendance at a meeting with the Beaufort County Council regarding Stimulus monies which should be available in the future. The County Council discussed what could be done for Daufuskie Island should the monies be granted.

Suggestions for the use of the funds are:

Expansion of the County Dock Landing

A Community Building which could be used as, among other things, a Public Health Center

Improvements and expansion of the mailbox facility

Outdoor Public Warning System

The County feels the monies will be available for large projects. Ms. Coulter requests that any suggestions for expenditure of these funds (should they be granted) be submitted to her.

A member of the Fire Department discussed Golf Cart Safety. He suggests that we all charge our carts outside, during the day. He also suggests that we have a fire/smoke alarm as well as a CO detector in the area where we park our cards, should they be inside. He provided the non-emergency phone number (843-785-8358) for the Daufuskie Island Fire Department and said that they will be happy to come to our homes to check that we are appropriately safe with the proper alarms.

Two members of the Turtle Team reported that as of now, no nests are on Daufuskie, though a 'false crawl' was found this morning. They specifically asked that all carts be kept from the beaches. They said that many sets of tire tracks are found on every beach access. Members of the community are asked to tell their families, friends, neighbors, guests and that any renters are advised NOT to drive on the beach. If they are caught, they are subject to a substantial fine.

The Turtle Team reminds us to remove all foreign objects from the beaches at night, to keep the lights off at homes by the beaches after 10PM, to not use flash cameras, not to set fires on the beaches, and to not disturb any turtle on the beach. Please remind family, friends, neighbors, and visitors of these requests. Turtles need our help.

Kathy Aurichio asks that any knowing the location of graves of Veterans on Daufuskie notify her, Dennis Mobley, or Pastor Aaron so that flags may be placed on the graves on Memorial Day.

Erin Quinn announced that the playground equipment will be installed on Saturday. Help for this is requested. Erin stated there are jobs for everyone in this endeavor.

The 'Daufuskie Park' is now under the auspices of the Beaufort County Parks and Recreation. Beaufort County will be responsible for all upkeep and cleaning.

The Ferry Committee reported on the RFP for the ferry contract. None of the information provided by Daufuskie Island was included in the RFP. A letter was sent to the County Council requesting that the information from Daufuskie be included.

The County asked for suggestions for a long term solution to the parking problems.

The Roads Committee spoke about the Bloody Point Cemetery and River access. A letter sent to the new owner of Bloody Point three weeks ago has received no response.

A Member of the Bloody Point POA in the audience pointed out that the new owner of Bloody Point has no control over the roads in question.

A discussion ensued about the use of the Bloody Point roads to provide access to the cemetery and the river. The Member from Bloody Point explained their process for admittance to that area. If a visitor is visiting either the River or the Cemetery, access will be granted. Visitors are given a tag for their vehicle, such tag is numbered one through 6 because parking is available for only 6 vehicles.

The Historic District has a shortage of mailboxes. With the influx of new owners, there are simply no mailboxes available. Anyone with any ideas of how to fix this problem is asked to contact Leanne Coulter with their ideas. This would possibly to a use for stimulus funds - perhaps a building in the Park with lights for safety.

Hargray Cable has all the information gathered about residences on the north end of the island to facilitate their next round of Cable installation.

There is an Emergency Broadband Benefit Program which will allow a payment of \$50 per month towards Broadband for those who apply and are accepted. One must qualify for one of four government programs, such as Medicaid and other anti-poverty government programs.

Leanne Coulter announced that Steve and Mary Ellen Hill will be leaving Daufuskie at the end of June. Robert Ross, as the next highest vote-getter in the last Island Council election, will replace Mr. Hill on the Island Council.

The Meeting was dismissed at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine G. James