# Daufuskie Island Council November 15, 2016 Monthly Meeting Minutes

#### Call to Order

Chairman Small called the meeting together at 6:32 pm. The following Council Members were present, and a quorum was present.

Charlie Small
Chuck Hunter
Steve Hill
Len Pojednic
Janet Adams
John Schartner
Deborah Smith

By phone: Tina Fine

#### **Dave Hutton**

Charlie Small expressed the great sorrow of the Council at the passing of Council Member David Hutton, who was our Vice Chair. Dave was loved and respected by all who knew him, and he worked very hard and effectively for the entire Island community. He was considered the leader of the "Daufuskie 100" in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. Charlie extended the Council's sympathies to Dave's family, and especially his mother, Martha and his brothers, Joe and Adam. At Charlie's request, Pastor Aaron Crosby stood and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dave.

### **DI Ferry Report - Steve Hill**

Because the Palmetto Bay Marina was badly damaged by the hurricane, the DI Ferry is now departing from the Oyster Factory Wharf. This site was suggested by the County for a short-term docking solution, and it includes good parking and docks. Currently three round trips are operating on a daily basis (morning, mid-day, and late afternoon). There is a promotional program going on until end of the year: On Fridays there are 5 round trips, including two trips in the evening to allow people to come over here for dinner, and they also give local people the chance to go over to the HIlton Head/Bluffton area for the evening. These extra times are: To Daufuskie – 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM; From Daufuskie – 7:30 PM and 10:30 PM

There will be a special end-of-day run on Wednesday, November 23 – the day before Thanksgiving: Departing from the Bluffton Oyster Factory Landing at 6:00 pm; Departing from Melrose Landing on Daufuskie at 7:30 pm.

Additional changes are expected to be announced to accommodate the crew's Thanksgiving plans.

It is indeterminate about how long the county will the Bluffton dock to be used; County officials are working with DI Ferry representatives over longer term solution.

### **Update on recovery including FEMA response - Chuck Hunter**

Chuck reported on the status of the ROE applications (Right of Entry) into private communities. He also explained the financial process with the county picking up the bill for the debris clean-up, and FEMA then reimbursing the county. SERIES is a national firm that has the contract for overall cleanup effort. The first ROEs are for minimal level clean-up activities. Island residents should know that the trucks should make at least 3 passes on each road to pick up road-side debris. There are 6 "cut trucks" and 6 tandem haul trucks. Chuck is unsure about the holiday schedule of the workers/trucks. Generally, the operation goes on 7 days a week. More monitors are needed in order for the operation to continue. Aaron Crosby described the tasks and schedule: Show up at 6:30 am; get assigned to a truck; take photos of what the workers are doing including what's being cut or document what is being taken from where. Monitors are needed in order for the trucks to operate. If interested, send Nancy Kimball an email at <a href="mailto:nfkimb@aol.com">nfkimb@aol.com</a>. (This information will go on the Council's website and FB page.)

The Council website will soon have a sign-up program for volunteer efforts.

Charlie Small - Question: Who is monitoring fire at Francis Jones burn site?

Chuck - Combination of Chuck and FEMA workers.

Len Pojednic - Is the County's commitment to the entire island?

Chuck - Yes. Gated communities had to apply for ROE; Two have been approved (BP and HP); still a hang-up with Melrose. The revised paperwork has been put in for Melrose.

Public Comment: Per a newspaper article, people should know that the smoke that most folks see is coming from the forest fires of North Carolina.

Public Question: Any thought of chipping? Chuck - Yes: but chipping is very expensive, and used as a last resort.

Public Comment: Very concerned about all the dried debris and the chance of fire.

Steve: What's the best way for people to know if their requests for help are on the list?

Chuck: Email: Jeff Morgan for inside HP; Deb Smith has community contacts outside HP.

Deborah: Email Andy Mason for Melrose requests; Debbie Roberson for Mary Field and Governor's Point; Mike Loftus for Bloody Point, and Deborah for all other requests. All these requests will be sent to Jeff Morgan who is keeping a master request list for debris pick-up and cutting of leaning trees and hanging branches.

#### Webb Tract - Charlie Small

Roger Freedman has been communicating with the Council about his plans to develop the Webb Tract and Oak Ridge areas. He understands that he has to go through the DI Council before the County will approve.

He initially wanted to use Broad Creek Marina as the main embarkation point. He recently met with Charlie to show him where the Webb Tract embarkation center would be. Charlie said it was a "beautiful" area with 8 acres of parking; Roger says it is only feasible if the Daufuskie Island code is amended, and specifically the height restriction. (He wants to build to a maximum of 5 stories.) Charlie stressed that we don't yet know know details but need to look at DI Code to go to the next step. Critical are deadlines coming up; December and March. Deb suggested that the Council's Committee on the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code, chaired by Deborah and Janet Adams, meet soon to consider recommendations to make to the full Council re revisions to the Code, and there was concurrence with this suggestion.

Public Question: What percentage of the Webb Tract is constitutes the conservation easement.

Aaron Crosby: Out of the 753 areas for the Webb Tract, 289 aces is a conservation easement. 174 acres on Oak Ridge is conservation easement.

Pubic Comment: I thought the plan was already consistent with the code. No, it was developed in conjunction with the code, but the county's planning department has pointed out several inconsistencies.

Public Question: Does Mr. Freedman have the financial wherewithal to develop this?

Charlie - Yes

Aaron - A development of this type was never contemplated when the code was put together.

Len - Cooperation is fine, but we need specifics

Public Question: Is the biggest issue the height? Aaron: Yes. Sandy Lane is 4 stories;

Audience Question: Are you sure there is enough time to look at code revisions? Charlie: Yes

Audience: Isn't water a big issue? Charlie: One of the issues to be looked at.

Deborah - Community should know that the Council will be looking for more details about this plan and members are committed to sharing all information and seeking input from the community before any decisions and/or recommendations are made.

### Developing a Disaster Recovery Plan for Future Use - Geoff Brunning

Chief Boys had asked for a community committee to develop a disaster plan, including issues such as what does FEMA do in such cases, what does the county do, how does the county get reimbursed, etc? Not much had been done by the committee when the hurricane hit; we now have most of the answers. The fire department will produce a manual for emergency preparedness for future incidents.

### **DIC Elections in February - Steve Hill**

Early next year the Council will conduct its annual election. Qualified candidates are being sought. There are 3 seats up for election (those held by Janet Adams, John Schartner, and Tina Fine) and the increasingly important role of the Council in issues ultimately decided by the Council highlights the importance of people running for Council seats. There are several ways to qualify: be at least 18 years old, and be a DI registered voter, or a DI property owner or long-term renter, or possess a Palmetto Breeze ID card, or hold a valid SC Driver's license with Daufuskie address. The election schedule will include candidate applications due by early January 2017, a candidate forum later in January, and the election itself on 11 February.

Len Pojednic especially urged residents of the Historic District to consider running for Council so that this important community continues to have a voice in Council matters.

## **Appointment of Council Vacancy**

Charlie Small said that the Council's by-laws call vacancies to be filled by the alternate candidate in the previous election who received the the highest number of votes. Charlie also said that he had talked to Dave Hutton's mother, Martha, about the timing of that replacement, and that she encouraged him to fill the position as quickly as possible.

As Darnell Brawner was 4th highest vote getter in the February, 2016 election, Charlie moved and Janet Adams seconded that Darnell be added to the Council. The motion was approved unanimously and Darnell was welcomed to the Council by the Members and the community members.

#### **Front Porch**

Charlie Small expressed his disappointment with Paula Nickles' announcement that the Front Porch would cease to be published after the next issue. Charlie was joined by the other Council members and the community members in commending Paula for a job well-done and in thanking her for making a major contribution to the island with this outstanding newsletter.

### **Ed Bellamy**

Ed Bellamy, formerly with Beaufort County, was introduced. He is currently the contractor tasked with providing the monitoring of the FEMA cleanup effort. He explained that Series is the company responsible for debris clean-up, and his company (Tetratech) provides the monitors. He said a great amount of documentation is needed to ensure the integrity of the system, for. example, photos of hanging branches and leaning trees are required. Thus far, more than 46,000 cubic yards have been taken in on Daufuskie.

### **Open Forum**

Public Member: How many spots are there on the Council? Answer: 9

Public Member: For what period of term will Darnell Brawner serve? Answer: Per the bylaws, Darnell will fill the remainder of Dave Hutton's term, i.e., two more years.

Public Member: Many roads are getting difficult to transverse as a result of the FEMA trucks. Church Road is almost impassable for golf carts.

Chuck Hunter: We're working on the problem.

Public Member: In the 1990's the county sent over a water truck to help with situation. Several people clarified: That wasn't the County, it was the fire department. There was a suggestion that Chief Boys help with the situation by spraying the road and that Greg Hutton be asked to level the road.

#### **Announcements**

Aaron Crosby announced that the community Thanksgiving is on this Sunday and starts at 1:00 pm at Marshside Mama's. This is a very popular annual event on Daufuskie and everyone is invited...Bring your favorite dish.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.