



The Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural  
Preservation Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
May 1, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

**Present from the Task Force:** Chairman Lavon Stevens; Vice Chairman Palmer E. Simmons; Tom Henz; Joyce Wright

**Absent from the Task Force:** Ibrahim Abdul-Malik; John Campbell; Shani Green

**Present from Town Staff:** Angie Stone, *Assistant Town Manager*; Missy Luick, *Assistant Community Development Director*; Krishana Perry, *Principal Planner – Historic Neighborhood Preservation*; Nicté Barrientos, *Assistant Planner – Economic Development*; Karen Knox, *Senior Administrative Assistant*; Brian Glover, *Administrative Assistant*

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. FOIA Compliance**

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

**3. Roll Call**

As noted above.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Stevens asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Henz moved to approve. Ms. Wright seconded. By a show of hands, the Agenda was approved by a vote of 4-0-0.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Stevens asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of April 3, 2023. Mr. Henz amended the minutes to make a correction to Luana Graves Sellers' name and title. Mr. Simmons moved to approve. Ms. Wright seconded. By a show of hands, the Minutes of April 3, 2023, were approved by a vote of 4-0-0.

**6. Appearance by Citizens**

No comments were received on the Open Town Hall Portal. No citizens spoke at the meeting.

**7. Staff Report**

a. District Planning Update

Ms. Luick stated there was no update for the District Plan this month. There will be an update included in the next meeting.

b. Historic Neighborhood Permitting & Design Studio Report

Ms. Perry provided the report as included in the packet. There were no new requests, and five ongoing projects have been completed.

Mr. Simmons asked about an applicant who has not received the completed staff plans. Ms. Perry stated that the applicant could contact her for information and assistance.

c. Home Safety and Repair Program Update

Ms. Barrientos provided the update as included in the packet. There was one new application, and there were seventy-six applications approved in total. Contractors have been approved and are acquiring permits.

d. Sewer Connection Program Update

Ms. Barrientos provided the update as included in the packet. There have been no new applications since the last meeting. There have been twenty-five applications in total.

e. General Staff Updates

Ms. Perry provided details about the Gullah Sustainability Conference, the Gullah History Education Program, and the Free Wills Clinic. The Task Force asked several questions and provided support for the programs. The Task Force encouraged working closely with local communities to maximize success.

## 8. Discussion Items

a. Deep Well – Project SAFE

Sandy Gillis, Deep Well Executive Director, and Pete Nardi, General Manager of Hilton Head PSD, provided the presentation. They provided details on PSD performance, systems offered, marketing information, Town funding, and financial support.

Additionally, they provided examples of the application process and differences between the Town funded program and the Deep Well program. Following the presentation, they answered several questions from the Task Force.

b. Public Service District – Water Connections Update

Pete Nardi provided an update on the progress of the water connections. He stated that they are making improvements to streamline the application process. He stated the water connections on the island are above the national average. However, they are still pushing for one hundred percent connectivity.

c. Gullah Geechee Work Plan Quarterly Update – Draft Report

Ms. Perry provided the draft presentation on the Gullah Work Plan quarterly update to be presented at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. The Task Force agreed with the approach. Ms. Wright asked about the education program for town employees. She suggested that the Town look to extend the program to the community.

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Brian Glover, Administrative Assistant

**Approved:** June 5, 2023