



The Town of Hilton Head Island
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural
Preservation Task Force Meeting**
Monday, December 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

This meeting is being conducted virtually and can be viewed via the [Town of Hilton Head Island Public Meetings Facebook Page](#). A Facebook account is not required to access the meeting livestream.

1. Call to Order

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

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting of October 4, 2021

6. Citizen Comments

Citizens who wish to address the Task Force may do so by contacting the Task Force Secretary at 843-341-4691, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 3, 2021.

Citizens may also submit written comments via the [Town's Open Town Hall Portal](#). The portal will also close at 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 3, 2021. Comments submitted through the portal will be shared with the Task Force and made part of the official record.

7. Discussion Items

a. **Education Programs and Outreach**

b. **2022 Meeting Schedule**

8. Staff Report

9. Adjournment

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more of their members attend this meeting.

Please note that a quorum of the Planning Commission may result if five (5) or more of their members attend this meeting.



The Town of Hilton Head Island
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural
Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

Present from the Task Force: Chairman Lavon Stevens, Vice Chairman Palmer E. Simmons (joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.), Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Shani Green, John Campbell

Absent from the Task Force: Theresa White, Mark O'Neil, Martha Davis, Tom Henz

Present from Town Council: Tamara Becker

Present from Town Staff: Chris Yates, Interim Community Development Director; Sheryse DuBose, Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Teresa Haley, Senior Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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 – See as noted above.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Vice Chairman Simmons seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting of September 7, 2021

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021, regular meeting. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Vice Chairman Simmons seconded. By show of hands, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. Citizen Comments

Public comments concerning agenda items were to be submitted electronically via the Town's Open Town Hall portal. The portal closed at 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 1, 2021, prior to the scheduled meeting. There were no comments.

Citizens were provided the option to sign up for public comment participation by phone

during the meeting. The public comment period closed at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021, prior to the scheduled meeting. There were no requests.

7. Discussion Items

a. Street Name Review

Dr. DuBose referenced the presentation conducted by Fire Rescue at the August Task Force meeting regarding the addressing process in historic neighborhoods. She reviewed the process utilized when naming new roads. It was requested that the Task Force provide a list of names that reflect the character of the historic neighborhoods for the homeowners to choose from. Dr. DuBose reminded the Task Force members that the family that owns the property has first choice in selecting a name. The list would just assist if they did not have one to submit. She noted the Task Force reviewed a partial list of names at the September meeting and after receiving community input, the list included in this packet is the one being submitted.

Dr. DuBose reminded them after approval, the list would be submitted to Beaufort County for final vetting. She added that this would be an open process and names could be added after the initial submittal. Task Force members discussed the list and the communication process. Following discussion, Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve the list with the following changes: delete Freedman's Way and remove suffixes from all names. Mr. Campbell seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

b. Seasonal and Temporary Signs Update

Dr. DuBose reported that Staff is ready to move forward with Seasonal and Temporary Signs noting it was introduced as a proposed LMO amendment to the Public Planning Committee meetings held in June and July. She informed the Task Force the Committee had questions regarding the number of signs allowed to be posted at once. She added to mitigate that concern, Staff is asking the Task Force for a list of specific businesses that would need the signage. She noted there are no requests at this time and the assistance of the Task Force in identification of such businesses would be welcome. Dr. DuBose provided clarification regarding seasonal and temporary noting each would have to be identified along with the length of time the sign would be utilized, and the applicant would be aware of the time length through the application process.

8. Staff Report

Mr. Campbell excused himself from the meeting at this time (9:51 a.m.) stating he had a prior commitment.

Dr. DuBose briefed the Task Force regarding the recommendation to hold educational meetings and workshops for the Gullah Community. She reported that Staff held a community education program regarding Family Compounds and Family Subdivisions on Thursday, September 30 at the Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park. She reported there were approximately 30 people in attendance and there will be an additional community education program regarding Family Compounds and Family Subdivisions on October 20 at 4:00 p.m. Dr. DuBose stated going forward there will be various community education programs held quarterly.

Dr. DuBose informed the Task Force the Town signed an agreement with Hilton Head Public Service District to install two fire hydrants in FY2022 located at Orage Lane and on Evelina Road.

Dr. Dubose reported the auction for delinquent taxes is being held today, October 4, 2021, noting Ms. White is present at the auction as an observer. She stated the Task Force did a good job of informing property owners of taxes that were due. She said when the list was pulled on Friday, there were only two properties remaining on the list. She stated she was informed that at the end of that day, one of the properties would be taken care of. She expressed her hopes were that in the end there were no properties from Hilton Head Island on the list. Chairman Stevens confirmed he was informed there were no properties from Hilton Head Island listed at the tax sale today.

Dr. DuBose stated there were some responses regarding changing the Task Force meeting time to 4:00 p.m. She added there were other times suggested as well. She explained the change would have to take place beginning with the 2022 meeting schedule.

Vice Chairman Simmons excused himself from the meeting at this time (9:55 a.m.) stating he had a prior commitment.

Chairman Stevens made an inquiry regarding off-site meetings in addition to the regular schedule. Dr. DuBose explained the difficulty in holding public meetings outside of Town Hall.

Chairman Stevens reminded the Task Force the need to contribute suggested locations for the Gullah Market.

Chairman Stevens inquired about a place to refer citizens to when they are looking for information regarding the Gullah Community and suggested the need for some sort of library. Dr. DuBose explained that there is a part of the Town website dedicated to that effort and stated she would send the link to the entire Task Force.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Submitted by: Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved: [DATE]

CP-7: Establish a program to educate Town officials, area schoolteachers, and others on Gullah culture so that they can better understand the culture and more effectively interact with the Island's Gullah citizens.

The Town of Hilton Head Island (Town) new hires, Town newly elected officials, Board and Commission members, advocates for the Gullah Community, and educators should have a critical understanding of Hilton Head Island's Historic Neighborhoods in order to establish effective communication and service. The new-hire orientation lesson will provide an overview of the Gullah Community to foster connections with the Historic Neighborhoods.

Gullah History and Culture Overview – This introductory lesson for New Hires, Newly Appointed Board and Commissioner Members, and Newly Elected Officials will focus on Gullah history, culture, land use challenges, and policy amendments for Gullah landowners.

- Topics of focus:
 - Settlement of Gullah People on Hilton Head Island - Participants will learn about the importance of comparing United States coastal area with West African geography and the Freedmen Settlement of Mitchelville.
 - Gullah culture - Gullah cultural topics will include language, spiritual ties, arts and crafts, and food. Participants will also learn how land and the Gullah culture are connected.
 - Settlement into 14 Historic Communities on Hilton Head Island - Participants will learn how overall Gullah-owned land was acquired, where the Native Islanders settled on Hilton Head and the unique aspects of each neighborhood, the challenges to retaining Gullah-owned property, and the remaining acreage of Gullah-owned property on Hilton Head Island.
 - Challenges to Native Island Land Retention and Sustainability – Participants will learn about how the incorporation of Hilton Head Island impacted Native Island property owners, the influx of development and establishment of a limited services government, and the loss of Native Island properties.
 - Proposed Public Policy Initiatives for the Hilton Head Island Historic Neighborhoods – Participants will learn about the Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation Task Force, the Gullah Geechee Culture Preservation Project Report, and the Gullah Preservation Initiatives for property protection and cultural preservation. Participants will learn the how proposed policy initiatives are effective in resolving challenges that impact the Gullah Community.
- Proposed Presenters:
 - Dr. Emory Campbell, *Historian, Gullah Heritage Tours*
 - Dr. Louise Cohen, *Historian, Gullah Museum*

- Sheryse DuBose, *Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator*

Other Educational Opportunities – To occur at least once a quarter. (Develop a schedule for learning opportunities)

- Explore Mitchelville – Participants will learn about the First Settlement for Freedmen in the United States
- Gullah Museum
- Gullah Heritage Mobile Tours
- Development Standards - Family Compound and Family Subdivision, Dirt Road Paving,
- Addressing Policies in Historic Neighborhoods

DRAFT

Historic Neighborhoods Community Engagement Program

Quarterly information sessions that address land use challenges and land use policies that impact the Historic Neighborhoods. These educational opportunities can be held at different venues throughout the Historic Neighborhoods for widespread community outreach.

PP-12: Program to Educate Gullah Residents on Policy – Taxes, Land Use, Development

The following are proposed panel discussions, participants, and topics of discussion:

1. Family Compound/Family Subdivision

Proposed Presenters: Dr. Sheryse DuBose, *Historic Neighborhood Preservation Administrator*
Missy Luick, *Senior Planner*

Topics:

- a. History of Family Compound/Family Subdivision
- b. Difference between FC and multifamily developments
- c. Difference between FS and regular subdivisions
- d. Qualifications for FC/FS
- e. Application process

2. History and Culture Panel -

Proposed Presenters: Dr. Emory Campbell, *Gullah Heritage Tours*
Dr. Louise Cohen, *Gullah Museum*
Jenn McEwen, *Director of Cultural Affairs*
Ahmad Ward, *Executive Director of Mitchelville Freedom Park*

Topics:

- a. History of Gullah people on Hilton Head Island: Pre-Mitchelville
- b. History of Gullah people on Hilton Head Island: Post-Mitchelville
- c. Gullah culture on Hilton Head Island: art; music; food; language

3. Development Review Panel

Proposed Presenters: Nicole Dixon, *Development Review Administrator*
Chris Yates, *Interim Community Development Director and Building Official*
Nancy Stephens, *Applications/Records Manager*
Missy Luick, *Senior Planner*
Tyler Newman, *Senior Planner*

Topics:

- a. Understanding Homebuilding/Mobile Home Placement
- b. Development Plan Review Process
- c. Inspections Process

4. Business Panel

Proposed Presenters: Eric Turpin, *NIBCAA*
April Akins, *Revenue Services Manager*
Tom Cavasant, *SCORE Representative*

- Topics:
- a. NIBCAA and the services it provides
 - b. Town of Hilton Head Island Business Licensing and services
 - c. SCORE and the services it provides

5. Paying Property Taxes

Proposed Presenter: Maria Walls, *Beaufort County Tax Assessor's Office*

- Topics:
- a. Discuss the process for paying taxes
 - b. Discuss how penalties are assessed and when
 - c. Discuss the redemption process for properties sold in tax sale

5. Capital Improvement Projects Panel

Proposed Presenters: Jennifer Ray, *Capital Projects Manager*
Taylor Ladd, *Project Planner*

- Topics:
- a. Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - b. Redevelopment of Chaplin Community Park
 - c. Redevelopment of Crossings Park
 - d. Development of Mid-Island Tract

6. Long Range Plans Panel

Proposed Presenters: Anne Cyran, *Senior Planner*
Jayme Lopko, *Senior Planner*
Sheryse DuBose, *Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator*
Sally Krebs, *Sustainable Practices Coordinator*

- Topics:
- a. Our Plan
 - b. Workforce Housing
 - c. Gullah Geechee Preservation Project, including Family Compound/Family Subdivision
 - d. Sustainability

7. Dirt Road Paving Program

Presenters: Jeff Buckalew, *Interim Infrastructure Services Director and Town Engineer*
Teri Lewis, *Deputy Community Development Director*

Topics: a. History of the program
b. Road selection criteria
c. LMO Amendments for Dirt Road standards
d. Paving schedule and process

8. Heritage Library Genealogy Clinic

Presenters: Linda Piekut, *Heritage Library Family Research Project*
Barbara Cantenaci, *Heritage Library Director*

Topics: a. History of the Clinic
b. How the Clinic works
c. Other Heritage Library resources

9. William Hilton Parkway Corridor Improvements

Presenters: Craig Winn, *South Carolina Department of Transportation*
Shawn Colin, *Senior Advisor to the Town Manager*

Topics: a. Selected Road Design for William Hilton Parkway
b. Corridor design
c. Addressing impacts to Stoney Community

10. Addressing and Fire Hydrants

Presenters: Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*
Joheida Fister, *Deputy Fire Chief*
Becky Neugent, *E911 Communications Manager*
Pete Nardi, *General Manager, Hilton Head Public Service District*

Topics: a. Process for home numbering and selecting road names
b. Process for notifying homeowners of address change
c. Fire hydrant installation program

More topics to be added as needed



The Town of Hilton Head Island
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation
Task Force
Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule**

Meetings are generally held in Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers at 1:00 p.m. on the **first** Monday of each month, subject to change with notice.

PUBLIC MEETING DATES	MEETING TIMES
January 3, 2022	1:00 p.m.
February 7, 2022	1:00 p.m.
March 7, 2022	1:00 p.m.
April 4, 2022	1:00 p.m.
May 2, 2022	1:00 p.m.
June 6, 2022	1:00 p.m.
July 11, 2022*	1:00 p.m.
August 1, 2022	1:00 p.m.
September 12, 2022**	1:00 p.m.
October 10, 2022***	1:00 p.m.
November 7, 2022	1:00 p.m.
December 5, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Notes: *The July meeting has been moved to Monday, July 11 because Town Hall will be closed the first Monday in July in observance of Independence Day.

**The September meeting has been moved to Monday, September 12 because Town Hall will be closed the first Monday in September in observance of Labor Day.

***The October meeting has been moved to Monday, October 10 because the Beaufort County Tax Sale is the first Monday in October.