



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

August 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

AGENDA

The Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation Task Force Meeting will be held in-person at Town Hall in the Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers. The outside doors will be opened to the public at 8:00 a.m., seating will be limited to no more than 80 individuals.

- 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. Meetings of May 3, 2021 and July 6, 2021
- 6. Election of Officers for July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022 Term**
- 7. Discussion Items**
 - a. Family Compound and Family Subdivision Update
 - b. Addressing in Historic Neighborhoods
- 8. Citizen Comments**
- 9. Staff Report**
- 10. 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

May 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL VIA BLUEJEANS

Present from the Task Force: Chairman Lavon Stevens, Todd Theodore; Ibrahim Abdul-Malik; Carolyn McVitty; Shani Green; Palmer Simmons (joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.)

Absent from the Task Force: Joyce Wright, Martha Davis; Teresa White

Present from Town Council: Alex Brown, Tamara Becker, Bill Harkins

Others Present: Pete Nardi, General Manager, Hilton Head PSD; Barbara Catenaci; Executive Director, Heritage Library; Linda Piekut, Past Executive Director, Heritage Library

Present from Town Staff: Sheryse DuBose, Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator; Brad Tadlock, Fire Chief; Teri Lewis, Deputy Community Development Director; 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. Ms. McVitty moved to approve. Mr. Theodore seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. April 5, 2021

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 regular meeting. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Mr. Theodore seconded. By way of roll call, 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, April 30, 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 sign up period closed at Noon on Friday, April 30, 2021, prior to the scheduled meeting. There were no requests.

7. Discussion Items

a. Status of Fire Hydrant Expansion Program

Chief Tadlock stated progress continues on the expansion program. He said there are four hydrants that will be completed this year and they will be reviewing needs for next year. He added they are looking closely at development and the need for additional hydrants in those areas.

Pete Nardi elaborated on the placement of the four additional hydrants and the extensive requirements and work involved in the installation regarding two of them. He stated that after all requirements are met, construction should begin this summer. Mr. Nardi added the other hydrants will probably carry over into next year with an expected wrap-up of 2022. He added that the PSD sent a letter to Town Council in late March requesting fire hydrants under the Corona Virus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. He said it was his understanding that this would be Federal Funds coming to directly to the Town and can be transferred to special service districts like the PSD and can be used for water and sewer infrastructure. Mr. Nardi stated they have formally requested the Town award money from those funds to the PSD for additional hydrants. He added they also requested funds from the Beaufort County Council. He noted some specifics regarding the funds. Mr. Nardi said ten hydrants have been completed to date and with the four that are scheduled, the total under the expansion program would be fourteen.

Members of the Task Force and the presenters discussed the project at length and the following items were discussed: focus on existing structures that were more than 1000 feet from a hydrant; elimination of deficiencies in the area; continuation of the program in the area; clarification of the fund request; hydrant accessibility and specifications and requirements for installation of hydrants and upsizing the main line.

On behalf of the Task Force, Chairman Stevens thanked Chief Tadlock and Mr. Nardi for their presentation.

b. Genealogy Clinic Presentation

Barbara Catenaci stated the Heritage Library has been in conversation with the Center for Heirs Property for about five years. She said discussion has taken place regarding working the area of heirs property; helping families identify legitimate heirs and work through finding a valid deed. She noted they do not get into the legal end or meet with extended families to discuss the issue because their goal is to make sure that those that need to be involved are included and the deed is valid. Ms. Catenaci stated the Town was contacted to see if Heritage Library could assist the families in any way. She said they have a group of volunteers that assist in the research.

Ms. Piekut added that they are gearing the family research piece towards the process used by the Center for Heirs Property. She stated the clients they assist are not

charged a fee and in the end a packet of the information and proof documents found is provided for them to take to the Center or their own attorney to move further in the process.

Ms. Catenaci informed the Task Force the process is on a referral basis from the Center for Heirs Property or the Town of Hilton Head Island. Ms. Piekut added that they will be utilizing office space for this service at the USCB Campus on Hilton Head Island.

Members of the Task Force and the presenters discussed the project at length and the following items were discussed: potential costs for the project and the plan to provide the service at no cost to the client; the need for the office to be private and access to a conference room for meetings; the benefit of using and creating a data base; the need to maintain privacy for the families involved; having the ability to add to information compiled by Heritage Library when changes take place; concern that the information is not saved for future need; the need to keep the information current and moving forward; consideration of additional office space.

On behalf of the Task Force, Chairman Stevens thanked Ms. Catenaci and Ms. Piekut for their presentation.

8. Staff Report

Dr. DuBose reviewed the progress and upcoming meeting dates regarding the Family Compound and Family Subdivision item.

Dr. DuBose stated that there has been discussion regarding honoring Native Islanders by giving the developers the option to use historic street names from a generated list. She asked the Task Force for direction in terms of deciding where the list is generated from. Dr. DuBose asked if they would like to develop a list based on certain criteria or ask the Community for their input. She said some form of criteria would have to be followed, such as the names would need to be easy to pronounce and no duplicates would be permitted. She asked if the Task Force wanted to generate a list of names or if they would want to open it up to the Community. There was no response.

Dr. DuBose stated the April delinquent tax property list has been sent and there is only one property on the list.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Submitted by: Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved: [DATE]



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

Present from the Task Force: Chairman Lavon Stevens, Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Tom Henz

Absent from the Task Force: Shani Green, Palmer Simmons, Martha Davis, Theresa White, John Campbell, Mark O'Neil

Present from Town Council: Alex Brown, Tamara Becker

Others Present: Rod Casavant, Chairman, Chapter of SC Lowcountry SCORE; Michelle Gaston, Chair of Minority Small Business Support Committee of SC Lowcountry SCORE; Mike Waters, SC Lowcountry SCORE

Present from Town Staff: Sheryse DuBose, Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator; Shawn Colin, Senior Advisor to the Town Manager; Angie Stone, Assistant Town Manager; Jennifer Ray, Capital Projects Manager; Jenn McEwen, Director of Cultural Affairs; Carolyn Grant, Communications Director; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Temporary Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 9:25 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. Welcome to Newly Appointed Members of the Task Force

Chairman Stevens welcomed Mr. Henz.

4. Roll Call – See as noted above.

5. Approval of Agenda

As there was not a quorum, no vote was taken.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. May 3, 2021

As there was not a quorum, Chairman Stevens tabled the minutes to the next scheduled meeting.

7. Discussion Items

a. SCORE SC Low Country Minority Small Business Support Presentation

Rod Casavant thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to speak and explained that SCORE assists small businesses and non-profits in Beaufort, Colleton, Jasper and Hampton Counties. He noted they have outreach programs for minorities, women and veterans which assist in all business stages from start up to exit. Mr. Casavant conducted a detailed presentation and review of offered programs. He informed the Task Force that the Chapter's Business Mentors are dedicated, have deep experience and are backed by a national team of SCORE volunteers available to assist.

Michelle Gaston reviewed the upcoming Minority Small Business Support Program explaining there is a competitive grant program with a range of \$500 - \$2,500 in grant awards noting the average award will be \$1,000. She further explained that SCORE SC Lowcountry will absorb all administrative fees and mentors will be provided to assist with the application process and drafting a business plan or summary of operation. Ms. Gaston said SCORE SC Lowcountry will provide workshops to assist with the process. She reviewed the requirements for application to the program. Ms. Gaston reported that \$35,000 in grant funding has been received by SCORE SC Lowcountry to support this program and they expect to request another \$50,000 on remaining grants through the end of 2021. She said they anticipate success of program to lead to larger grants and expansion of program to other SCORE chapters.

The representatives of SCORE Lowcountry answered questions from the Task Force Members and members of the public.

b. Highway 278 Corridor Update

Mr. Colin reported that beginning July 7, 2021 the environmental assessment for the project will be released and the public review and comment period will commence. He stated the assessment will define the purpose and need of the project as defined by SCDOT and describe how alternatives were developed. SCDOT will announce their preferred alternative which meets their purpose and need in the least impactful way to the community on both physical and human environments. Mr. Colin reviewed the public meetings held to date and noted that after release of the assessment and SCDOT preferred alternative, public comment and input will begin July 7, 2021 through August 22, 2021. He added that the preferred alternative is not final and that public comment and input will be considered, as well as input from partnering agencies. He noted SCDOT will hold a Community Open House at the Rowing and Sailing Center at 133 Squire Pope Road on July 17, 2021 from 1pm until 4pm. as well as an in-person public hearing at Island Recreation Center, 20 Wilborn Road on Thursday, July 22 from 2pm until 7pm.

Mr. Colin explained Town Council has held many meetings and workshops regarding the project, created a Gateway Corridor Committee which has held multiple meetings, hired a land planning consultant, and staff has conducted meetings with property owners throughout the corridor with more are scheduled in the upcoming weeks. He stated all comments will be compiled and submitted formally to SCDOT.

Mr. Colin answered questions from the Task Force and members of the public. Mr. Thomas Curtis Barnwell, Jr. inquired if there were any traffic studies scheduled regarding usage of the Cross Island Parkway, as opposed to US278, and conveyed safety concerns regarding the

left-hand turn onto Squire Pope Road or Wildhorse Road when coming onto Hilton Head Island. He also asked if the State had released information regarding the number of deaths in the Stoney Area of US278.

c. Gullah Arts and Culture Update

Jenn McEwen updated the Task Force on the following projects: collaboration with Hilton Head Island Middle School regarding local history; installation of signage on the cultural trail; implementation of augmented reality experiences at the cultural sites; feature of artists at Culture HHI with articles in Local Life; mural installations along Gumtree Road; the partnership with Mitchelville for the lantern parade; creation of a documentary about the history of Gullah visual artists; a project with high school art students wrapping utility boxes in art murals and the locations of such; and continuing work on a Gullah branding project. She also updated the Task Force on the progress regarding the Gullah Geechee Top Priority Recommendations. She encouraged Task Force members and the public to go to the CultureHHI.org site to access information, videos and documentaries regarding the Gullah Culture.

Ms. McEwen answered questions from the Task Force and members of the public.

8. Citizen Comments

Thomas Curtis Barnwell, Jr. expressed his appreciation and thanked the members of the Task Force, Town Council and staff for their time and commitment to the community. He expressed concerns of safety in the Stoney Area with the US278 redesign efforts and requested that Town Council, Beaufort County and SCDOT consider designing it above ground level with connection at the Cross Island Bridge and other designated areas.

Tai Scott requested an update on the recommendations from the Task Force to Town Council. Dr. DuBose noted the update would take place during the staff report.

9. Staff Report

Dr. DuBose updated the Task Force on the Gullah Geechee Top Priority Recommendations. She said second reading of the Family Compound and Family Subdivision LMO Amendments will take place at the July 20, 2021 regularly scheduled Town Council meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Submitted by: Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved: [DATE]