



Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Public Planning Committee Special Meeting**  
February 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present from the Committee:** Chairman David Ames, Tamara Becker, Alex Brown, Glenn Stanford

**Others Present from Town Council:** Tom Lennox

**Present from Town Staff:** Jennifer Ray, Interim Community Development Director; Teri Lewis, Deputy Community Development Director; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Sheryse DuBose, Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator; Diane Busch, Staff Attorney; Cindaia Ervin, Finance Assistant; Teresa Haley, Senior Administrative Assistant; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Temporary Administrative Assistant

**Others Present:** Curtis Coltrane, Town Attorney

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Ames called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

**3. Roll Call** – See as noted above.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Ames asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Stanford moved to approve. Ms. Becker seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed with a vote of 4-0-0.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Special Meeting of October 29, 2020
- b. Regular Meeting of November 19, 2020

Chairman Ames asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 29, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2020. Mr. Stanford moved to approve. Ms. Becker seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed with a vote of 2-0-2. (Ms. Becker abstained due to technical difficulties. Mr. Brown abstained because he was not present at the subject meetings.)

**6. Citizen Comments**

Public comments concerning agenda items were to be submitted electronically via the Town's Open Town Hall portal. All comments were provided to the Committee for review and made part of the official record. Citizens were also provided the option to comment on agenda items during the meeting by phone. There were nine requests to give comments during the Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance Revisions.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

### **a. Review and recommendation on Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance Revisions**

Ms. Cyran presented the item stating staff recommends the Public Planning Committee discuss the proposed revisions to the Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance and make a final recommendation to Town Council.

The Committee made comments and inquiries regarding enforcement options.

Amber Kuehn, Kathy Sanders, Joanne Voulelis, Chris Rush, Barbara Faraci, Juliana Smith, Henry Sanders, and Ken Campbell spoke in favor of the revisions. Leslie Lenhardt requested to speak but did not phone in.

Mr. Stanford moved to amend the previous draft to include the revisions as presented. Ms. Becker seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Chairman Ames suggested consideration should be given on how the public should be educated. He added that staff should prepare an effective approach on dealing with enforcement.

Mr. Stanford moved to recommend approval of the ordinance, as amended, to Town Council. Ms. Becker seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

## **8. New Business**

None.

## **9. Staff Reports**

### **a. Update on Gullah-Geechee Overlay**

Dr. Dubose provided an update on the progress of the project. She noted staff was charged with narrowing the focus by using 1956 as a guideline. She explained staff proposes to exclude the private subdivisions from the focus area and define families and identify boundaries and ownership. She said there would be an outreach process to communicate with families as to what would be beneficial to Native Islanders. The outreach will include in-person meetings and a survey on Open Town Hall HHI portal. Dr. DuBose informed the Committee that the Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation Task Force met on February 1, 2021, and there was mixed feedback regarding moving two items forward without the complete package. She explained they worried about piecemealing the project.

The Committee made comments and inquiries regarding: distinction between major and minor subdivisions; clarification that a home occupation component is not part of what is moving forward; definitions of family compound and family subdivisions; discussion of the purpose of an ordinance and code governing the use of property; suggestions on how to conduct the outreach; impact on the entire community; gaining a better understanding or definition of noxious activities; working towards a compromise; compilation of information and statistics to reach a compromise; and encouragement for staff to move forward with the project and have further detailed recommendations for the Committee to consider.

## **10. Committee Business**

Chairman Ames encouraged the staff to move forward with recommendations on height, mass, setbacks and buffers to the Planning Commission and Public Planning Committee to assist the Design Review Board.

Mr. Brown suggested the US-278 Corridor Project be assigned to the Public Planning Committee. Mr. Ames said he would follow up on his suggestion.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

**Approved:** February 25, 2021