



CONSERVATION AND GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION

500 N. MAIN STREET
SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29483

MINUTES
KENNETH F. WAGGONER SERVICES BUILDING
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ST. GEORGE
June 5, 2024
5:30 PM

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting, and the following media outlets were notified: The Eagle-Record, The Summerville Journal Scene, The Post and Courier, WCBD Channel 2, WCIV Channel 4 and WCSC Channel 5.

PRESENT: Mr. Daniel Prohaska, Chairman
Ms. Rhonda Pereira
Mr. Edsel Taylor
Mr. Joel Wells
Mr. Bryan Havir, Asst Administrator for Community Services
Ms. Kiera Reinertsen, Director of Planning and Zoning
Ms. Carolina Gomez-Bello, Conservation/Greenbelt Planner

ABSENT: Mr. Ray Walsh, Vice Chairman
Ms. Catherine Brownlee
Ms. Phyllis Hughes

Mr. Daniel Prohaska called to order the meeting of Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission at 5:35 p.m. The invocation was also given by Mr. Prohaska, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

1. On the motion of Ms. Pereira seconded by Mr. Wells, the Commission voted 4-0, to adopt the minutes from the May 1, 2024, Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The meeting commenced with a presentation on the Greenbelt Program application and review process, led by Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Planner Carolina Gomez-Bello. The presentation briefly outlined the step-by-step process that occurs once an application for Greenbelt funds is submitted to the County, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved in the application review process, with particular emphasis on the role and responsibility of the Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission. Mr. Prohaska asked if the Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission agendas are sent out monthly to individuals who sign up for them before the meetings. Ms. Gomez-Bello responded that, although this particular system is not in place for the Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission meetings, agendas are sent out to the media to notify county residents, and meeting schedules are posted on the county website to inform the public of upcoming meetings. MS. Pereira then asked how many applications the Commission would be reviewing at one time. Ms. Gomez-Bello replied that while there is no limit on the number of applications being accepted, County staff will try to limit the number of applications reviewed at each meeting to make it manageable for Commission members and ensure each application is fairly reviewed. She emphasized that, due to the nature of gathering and finalizing the information needed to complete the application, she did not anticipate a situation where too many finalized applications would be ready for review simultaneously. However, if this were to occur, the Commission would not be expected to rush through them all in a single meeting. Ms. Gomez-Bello also noted that the Commission would be kept updated on pending projects in the application process, which may provide foresight into upcoming applications. Ms. Pereira then asked if there was a process for the Commission to know where applicants are in the process of gathering information and how much longer it will take for their applications to be finalized. Ms. Gomez-Bello responded that while there is no formal process, County staff is committed to remaining as transparent as possible with Commission members about this information, and a more formal process may be developed as the program progresses.

The Commission then discussed five projects for which the County had been informally approached about potentially seeking Greenbelt funding. Landowner and organizational names, as well as property addresses, were kept confidential since no formal agreements had been made.

On the motion of Ms. Pereira seconded by Mr. Taylor, the Wednesday, July 3rd Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting was Canceled. The Commission will meet again at the next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 7th Meeting in St. George.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Walsh seconded by Ms. Hughes, the Commission voted 4-0 in favor to adjourn at approximately 6:08 p.m.

