

Minutes Sept.18, 2023

Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust Meeting

**Time: 6:00-7:15 pm**

**Place: Harper General Contractors Conference Room (3rd Floor), 35 W Court St,  
Greenville**

Chair Carlton Owen opened the meeting with welcome to members and guest Virginia Maclure representing the Gowensville Community.

Members present: Carlton Owen (17) Nannette latesta (18), Pam Shucker (19), Alex Reynolds (20), Lyle Parks (21), Doug Harper (24), Bryant Harrison (26), Dennis DeFrancesco (27).

Members Absent: Joe Pulliam (22), Tripp Taylor (23), Kenneth Baxter (25), Matthew Thomas (28).

Agenda review added information on Budget, County Council Finance Committee meeting, and establishing a calendar for HNRT meetings.

Guest Ms. Maclure presented information on a group of Gowensville citizens' who created **Preserve Gowensville** to protect the rural character and scenic beauty of this section of Greenville County bounded by Cherokee Scenic Highway 11 and SC Highways 14 and 101. They desire to achieve protection through obtaining a classification as a zoning category of an Agricultural Preservation District. This zoning classification is to "preserve prime farmland for agricultural and forestry uses and limit non-agricultural development in productive and prime agricultural areas to densities and development patterns that are consistent with the continuation of economically viable agriculture."

After discussion Chair Owen thanked Ms. Maclure for her information.

Mr. Reynolds moved to approve the Minutes of the 7/27/2023 HNRT meeting as previously emailed and amended. Mr. Harper seconded and those present voted unanimously for approval.

In Grants Chair Mr. Pulliam's absence, Mr. DeFrancesco presented information from the Grants Committee on an update for project # 18 from Cycle 4. Project #18 experienced extenuating circumstances through the death of one owner preventing it's 1 year completion from time of funding, as stated in the HNRT ordinance. The Grants Committee recommended an allowed six-month extension. Mr. Harper moved to approve and Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously for approval.

Mr. DeFrancesco proceeded to present the Grants Committee's recommendations for 2 projects in Cycle 6, # 22 and # 23.

The Grants Committee recommended approval of Project #22 for \$45,000 which involved land that provides habitat for two endangered species: Bunched Arrowhead and Dwarf-flowered Heartleaf. Upstate Forever and Greenville County School District will provide additional funding as the property sits adjacent to a GC school. Project #22 received unanimous approval with Mr. Harrison not participating in discussion or vote due to previously listed conflict of interest statement.

Mr. DeFrancesco, for the Grants Committee, recommended approval for \$85,600 for Project #23, a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farm whose water resources flow into Lake Robinson and Lake Cunningham, thus providing the drinking water for the two residential areas. Project #23 also received unanimous approval with Mr. Harrison not participating in discussion or vote due to previously listed conflict of interest statement.

New Business: Chair Owen mentioned the grant to HNRT of \$100,000 from Greenville Women Giving for use to encourage Minority Owned Farming in the Upstate. He along with Mr. DeFrancesco, and Mr. Harrison will meet in Oct. about this project.

Mr. Reynolds reported about attendance along with Mr. Owen and Mr. Harrison to the Greenville County Finance Committee meeting. Their purpose was transparency, to keep the GCC Finance Committee informed of HNRT progress.

As part of HNRT effort to keep members aware of relevant actions being considered by Council, the group reviewed a land development plan change being discussed that would place additional restrictions on developments of 10 acres or greater to protect clean water resources.

Mr. Reynolds reviewed the proposal for addition of an HNRT Annual Calendar, which could be added to the website and create a more orderly meeting cycle. He previously emailed this information to members and received no objections or concerns. The need to have quarterly meetings of the HNRT and an Annual Report due in the first quarter, thus a February meeting will begin the year. The other 3 quarters involve project cycles so each will require a meeting. The Grants Committee will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each quarter and the Communications Committee will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday.

Chair Owen provided an update on the HNRT budget. With projects approved to date and a County allocation of \$4 million, we have just under \$2.5 million remaining in our current cycle which includes the Greenville Women Giving grant of \$100,000.

Mr. Harrison moved to adjourn; members voted unanimously for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Shucker, Secretary