

Minutes
Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust
2/15/2022 4:00 PM on Zoom

The Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust met by Zoom on February 15, 2022 from 4:00-5:02 PM.

Chair Doug Harper called the meeting to order and thanked all members for their representation and commitment to the Trust. He expressed his appreciation for the excellent work the Board has accomplished and continues to do. Mr. Harper reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Harper noted there were no visitors, so no public input. Nicole Wood representing Greenville County attended.

Secretary Pam Shucker called the roll. Members Present: Carlton Owen (17), Pam Shucker (19), Alex Reynolds (20), Dave Hargett (21), Joe Pulliam (22), Doug Harper (24), Kenneth Baxter (25), Dennis de Francisco (27), Matt Thomas (28.)

Members Absent: Tripp Taylor (23), Bryant Harrison (26.)

With a Board quorum present and no guests, the meeting continued without need for adjournment to executive session.

Chair Harper requested approval of Minutes of the 12/14/2021 meeting which had been previously sent by email to members. Mr. Reynolds moved for approval and Mr. Pulliam seconded. The 12/14/2021 Minutes were approved unanimously, and Mr. Reynolds will post them to the website.

Old Business: Mr. Owen introduced a needed change to Project #8 previously approved by the Board. The Board's original recommendation was for a total of 3 structures and/or property divisions on the property. After consultation with the property owner and conserving entity, Mr. Owen suggested a maximum of 4 structures and/or property divisions be allowed.

Mr. Owen moved: At the request of the eligible entity working to advance Project #8, I move that we modify one of our two recommendations to the eligible entity

regarding the terms of the proposed conservation easement by increasing the number of structures and/or property divisions from our original “not-to-exceed three” to “not-to-exceed four.”

Mr. Pulliam seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Harper relayed that at the Greenville County Council meeting last night, members praised the work the Board was doing and were very pleased with their initiation of the GCHNRT. Mr. Harper mentioned the importance of the work the Board is accomplishing, which “will last forever, as long as society exists.”

Mr. Harper reminded the members of the definition of “eligible entities” which can receive grants from GCHNRT as stated in the ordinance.

New Business: Chair Harper requested a report from the Communications Committee concerning the posting of notices of grants completed. Mr. Reynolds responded that at this point none have been reported on the website because HNRT needs to let the grant partners initiate the announcements, and that has not occurred yet. However, he is keeping in contact with them and will report when the time is right.

Mr. Owen reported that the Grants Committee had tweaked the scoring process of the application and thanked Mr. DeFrancisco for the work on this. He said the notice now goes out 90 days ahead of the deadline, allowing more time for applicants to apply.

Mr. Owen also reported some potential applicants have mentioned their interest in the next round of grants.

Chair Harper reminded the Board that each should stay in contact with their representative and be actively looking for grant opportunities within their district. Mr. DeFrancisco reported that he had met with Dianna Gracely, the Simpsonville City Administrator on February 3. Also attending were Nathan Galbreath and Paul Dixon with UGATA (Upstate Greenways and Trails Alliance.) The purpose was to encourage Simpsonville to apply for an HNRT grant, especially for historic structures. Mr. Galbreath and Mr. Dixon were pleased to make the contact with Ms. Gracely because they want to extend the Swamp Rabbit Trail into Fountain Inn.

Chair Harper then initiated the Election of New Officers. He tendered his resignation as Chair. He plans to remain a Board member and representative of his district.

The floor opened for nominations for Chair. Mr. Reynolds nominated Mr. Owen. Mr. Baxter moved the nominations be closed. Mr. Pulliam seconded. The vote to close the nominations was unanimous.

The vote to elect Mr. Owen as the new Chair was unanimous.

Mr. Harper opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair, reminding the Board that the Vice Chair is Chair of the Grants Committee. Mr. Harper nominated Mr. Pulliam. Mr. Baxter moved that the nominations be closed. Mr. Hargett seconded. The vote to close the nominations was unanimous.

The vote to elect Mr. Pulliam as Vice Chair was unanimous.

Mr. Harper opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Reynolds nominated Mrs. Shucker. Mr. Baxter moved the nominations be closed. Mr. Baxter seconded. The vote for closing the nominations was unanimous.

The vote to elect Mrs. Shucker as Secretary was unanimous.

The new Chair Mr. Owen thanked Mr. Harper for his leadership and announced there would be no change in the direction of the Board. He also asked Ms. Wood if any applications for the open seat in District #18 had been received. She agreed to check. (Ms. Wood later replied that at present there is one nominee.)

Mr. Harper adjourned the meeting at 5:02.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Shucker, Secretary