

Minutes

Land Committee

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

August 30, 2017

Attending:

Committee Members

Dwight Davis, Vice Chairman – Via Conference Call
William Bagwell
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Brother Stewart
Philip Wilheit
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Dwight Evans
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Matt Sawhill
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Philip Watt – Via Conference Call
Dee Yancey

Guests

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
Duncan Hughes, Soque River Watershed Association
Darrel Snyder, Georgia Power
Bill Hodges, HHNT
Blake Ravlerson, Georgia Farm Bureau
Leigh Elkins, Vinson Institute
Lea Dixon, Georgia Conservancy
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Walter Rabon
Terry West
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
James Hamilton
Spud Woodward
John Bowers
Steve Friedman
Maj. Thomas Barnard
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
Sam O'Neal
Doug Haymans
John Martin
Richie Golden
Michael Chadwell
Robin Freeman
Bola Akande
Farida Lammari
Sirisha Ramireddy
VJ Nandiraju
Bola Akande
Rick Lavender
Allison Asbrock
Jenifer Wisniewski
Linda May
Linda He
Thom Litts
Heidi Ferguson
Bill Hover
Alan Isler
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry

Sydney Brogden
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Dika Kuoh
Chuck Mueller
Erin Ruoff
Sarah Visser
Laura Williams

The August 30, 2017 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Duncan Johnson, Jr. Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Johnson called on William Bagwell, Acting Chairman of the Land Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that he needed to update the Board that the Sansavilla project will actually use DNR bond 120 and 141, but the amount is the exact same.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item A is a donated access easement from the Karrh Family that will give us better access to the Karrh tract in Emanuel County, which is now a part of the Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area. He further stated that after closing on the Karrh Tract in July, this new easement is needed for administrative purposes to improve the management of the WMA. He added that this will not be a public access easement because public access is already available.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to acquire (through donation) the .03± acres access easement for administrative purposes, Ochoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area, Karrh Tract, Emanuel County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item B is a briefing on the petition for Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve to widen state route 135/US 221 at Bullard Creek Wildlife Management Area in Jeff Davis County. He further stated that DOT submitted a letter of petition requesting change of use of the heritage preserve designated property in May 2017. He added that the petition is for a revocable license and a permanent easement over 3.956± acres.

Mr. Friedman stated that the WRD and Real Estate support the change of use. He further stated that the heritage preserve change of use rules call for a hearing in the county of the proposed change

that will be held in September of 2017. He added that he will return for a vote at the December 2017 meeting.

Mr. Lambert asked if it had been discussed that going forward we should work with DOT to see if they have any plans that would require change of use on the properties we have conservation easements.

Mr. Friedman stated that the main thing we have done is not designate any land as heritage preserve going forward. He further stated that this would not apply to conservation easements.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item C is a request for a revocable license agreement and permanent easement to DOT to widen State Route 66 at Brasstown Valley Resort. He further stated that the easement will allow DOT to replace the bridge west of Young Harris over Brasstown Creek and that the bridge will be built next to the existing bridge. He added that DOT will plant evergreen plants and trees to buffer the golf course at Brasstown Valley Resort following the plan as outlined by the golf course superintendent, in addition to replacing an existing public parking area for fishing and access to a pedestrian trail along Brasstown Creek that will be disrupted during construction.

Mr. Friedman stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval and General Assembly approval to grant a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of 3.6± acres to Georgia Department of Transportation, Brasstown Valley Resort, Towns County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.