

February 25, 2016

A Special Meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at 5:00 p.m. at Church of the Holy Cross, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Chauncey Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Sarah Church, Councilmember
Mark Howard, Councilmember
Rita Langley, Councilmember
Susan Middaugh, Councilmember
Bachman Smith, IV, Councilmember

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and stated the press and public had been duly notified. There were approximately 30 members in the audience. The purpose of the meeting was for Town Council to continue discussion of the protected land transition zone. Public comment would be allowed, time permitting, with the meeting to end at 7:00 p.m. Mayor O'Neil expressed appreciation to Reverend Chris Warner and Facilities Manager Hal Rose for their hospitality and use of their facility.

Mayor O'Neil stated the desired outcome for the meeting tonight was to (1) vote on motion describing the plan for the transition zone and (2) send approved plan to Town attorneys to present to DHEC/OCRM attorneys requesting approval for implementation of transition zone as presented, or with DHEC/OCRM modifications.

Mayor O'Neil summarized the plan from the last meeting on January 25, 2016 and stated each item will be reviewed with brief comments from Councilmembers.

Plan to discuss from last meeting on January 25, 2016:

- I. Remove all non-native invasives
- II. Two sub-bands: TWO ALTERNATIVES:
 - A. 0-50 and 50-100
 - B. 0-40 and 40-100
- III. (0-50 or 0-40)
 - A. Retain all trees \geq 9" DBH except cedar and pine
 - B. Remove all underbrush and shrubs including wax myrtles

IV. (50-100 or 40-100)

A. Retain all trees regardless of size

1. ALTERNATIVE: Retain all except those on “FireWise” list
2. ALTERNATIVE: Retain only trees ≥ 9 ” DBH

B. Understory and myrtles

1. Adjacent to forest (clarify/define this area):

Clear out all understory, shrubs and wax myrtles

2. Adjacent to shrubs, grasslands, other non-forest areas:

Initially remove 2/3 of wax myrtles current coverage

Suggested maintaining 2/3 of wax myrtles as
as maximum percentage of area

3. ALTERNATIVE: Remove all wax myrtles

Per Council’s discussion this evening, the following decisions were made:

Item I: There was Council consensus to remove all non-native species of flora in the transition zone.

Item II: The two sub-bands would be 0-40 and 40-100. Councilmembers Church, Howard, Langley, Middaugh, and O’Neil were in favor; Councilmembers Clark and Smith wanted 0-50 and 50-100. Councilmember Smith noted his compromise to 50 feet for heavier manipulation was because there should be far less manipulation seaward of the 100 feet.

Item III (A): In the 0-40 transition zone band, retain all trees ≥ 9 ” DBH except cedar and pine. Councilmembers Clark, O’Neil and Smith were in favor.

Councilmember Middaugh proposed an alternative to retain trees ≥ 6 ” DBH except cedar and pine. Councilmembers Church, Howard, Langley and Middaugh were in favor of the ≥ 6 ” DBH trees. Councilmember Clark noted that he believed there was consensus on the ≥ 9 ” diameter at the last meeting. Councilmember Howard stated the plan needed to be reviewed after a period of time.

Item III (B): In the 40-100 transition zone, there was Council consensus to remove all understory, wax myrtles, shrubs and small trees.

Item IV (A): In the 40-100 transition zone, retain all trees regardless of size.

Alternative 1: Retain all except those on “FireWise” list, primarily pines and cedars. Councilmembers Church, Howard, Langley and Middaugh were opposed to removing

the pines and cedars. Councilmembers Clark, O’Neil and Smith wanted to remove the pines and cedars.

Alternative 2: Retain only trees ≥ 9 ” DBH. Councilmembers Clark and Smith in favor; Councilmembers Church, Howard, Langley, O’Neil and Middaugh opposed.

Councilmember Clark stated he would like to have a vote at retaining only trees ≥ 6 ” DBH. All Councilmembers except Councilmembers Clark and Smith opposed this proposal.

Item IV (B): Understory and myrtles

(1) Adjacent to forest: There was Council consensus to remove all understory, shrubs and wax myrtles.

(2) Adjacent to shrubs, grasslands, other non-forest areas: Remove 2/3 or 70% or 75% of myrtles. After discussion, it was agreed to retain 25% of the existing wax myrtle coverage. Councilmembers Church, Howard, Langley, Middaugh, and O’Neil in favor. Councilmembers Clark and Smith opposed, as they thought all wax myrtles should be removed.

Item V: There was Council consensus that the results of the Plan should be reviewed annually.

Mayor O’Neil opened the floor for public comment regarding the plan discussed.

Sarah Diaz, project leader for Sullivan’s Island Bird Banding and Environmental Education Program, asked Council to consider removing as little as possible from 40-100 transition zone because of the erosion risk.

Luke Lewis, 2101 Pettigrew, stated the plan leaves wax myrtles close to homes despite comments from the experts.

Rick Reed, 1851 Flag Street, stated Council has received a lot of information that does not appear to be included in this document. He suggested re-evaluating, as well as examining the cost of the project.

Buddy Howle, 2523 Goldbug Avenue, suggested recording the votes of the Councilmembers. He stated it is a good idea to reevaluate the plan each year. He inquired whether property owners would be allowed to prune the 25% of wax myrtles.

Cindy Ewing, 2514 I’on Avenue, stated she believes in conservation, and asked Council to consider the habitat when reducing the number of trees. She inquired about the realistic cost, the priorities, how it will be paid.

Motion was made by Councilmember Langley, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to approve for the transition zone: Remove all non-native invasives in the transition zone; the transition zone will consist of two bands 0-40 and 40-100. In the 0-40

transition zone, retain all trees ≥ 6 " DBH except cedar and pine and remove all underbrush and shrubs including wax myrtles and small trees. In the 40-100 transition zone, retain all trees regardless of size; remove understory and wax myrtles adjacent to the forest. In the 40-100 transition zone adjacent to shrub, grasslands, other non-forest areas, 25% of the existing wax myrtles will be retained; also to review the plan annually, carried by a vote of 6, with Councilman Clark casting the opposing vote.

Motion was made by Councilmember Church, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Miller