

## Final BEAT Board Minutes 10/7/19

President Pete Key called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. The following board members were present: Pete Key, Dan George, Linda Eastman, Jennifer Swift, Bob Jakus, Teddy Altreuter, and Marilyn Priddy. Dwight Willis arrived around 6:25.

Marilyn provided copies of a draft agenda, and Teddy and Bob asked to be included. Teddy noted that the State had purchased land adjacent to Bird Island in Sunset Beach that will be added to the reserve. She asked Bob to post this news on the website.

Dan made a motion to approve the revised agenda, and Bob seconded the motion, which passed.

### Old Business

1. The minutes from the September Board meeting were approved following a motion by Teddy and second by Linda.
2. No Treasurer's report was presented as the position is still vacant.
  - a) Pete said he is a signer on the account and has the checkbook, but needed to order checks. He said the bank statements are still going to Tom Goodwin. Pete is planning to visit the bank to resolve this issue, and he said he needs another board member to be a signatory on the account.
  - b) Dan asked if BEAT was going to give an honorarium to Kemp Burdette, who has agreed to speak at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. After a brief discussion that included information from Pete about SELC turning down BEAT's \$250 honorarium check, Jennifer made a motion to give Kemp a \$100 gift certificate to Savorez in Wilmington. Dan seconded the motion, which passed. Pete said he would pick up the certificate.
  - c) Teddy said she would like to apply for another grant from the Society of St. Elizabeth, but did not have enough information to proceed. She noted the Education Committee did not have leaders with grant writing expertise.
3. Dwight had no additional information from Chance Lambert regarding issues raised during our 8-6-19 meeting. Jennifer asked Dwight to ask Chance to provide an update about moving hog waste lagoons out of the flood plain so this information could be shared during the October meeting.
4. Pete had no additional information regarding the letters BEAT sent regarding CPI or methyl bromide. Aerial photos of Caswell Beach and the plume from CPI were referenced.

### New Business

1. Bob shared information regarding the activities of the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society. He previously served as their Treasurer and said he had attended their Board meeting. Bob reported that this organization had a significant amount of money raised over the last 15 years and had recently gained 501(c)(3) status. He said they hired an accountant and wondered if BEAT should do the same. Dwight and Pete did not think that BEAT currently needs an accountant. Dwight offered to serve as Treasurer if no one else agrees.

This led to a discussion about expenditures and the possibilities for BEAT to support environmental education. Ideas included developing curriculum for a summer camp, sponsoring field trips for established camps, offering scholarships for children to attend summer camps, and presenting environmental sessions at established summer camps.

- a) Teddy said the grant money from the Society of St. Elizabeth could not go toward salaries, but Pete thought the grant money from Oceana could be used this way.
  - b) Dwight noted that BC has wonderful resources including the Green Swamp where Venus flytraps are found and the oldest tree in NC. He suggested encouraging children to become environmental stewards would be a great legacy for BEAT.
  - c) Dan noted that some less privileged children in BC have not ever seen the ocean or marshes.
  - d) Teddy felt BEAT could come up with a program on recycling and/or find a good CD and involve members to help with presentations.
  - e) Linda suggested we do not need to reinvent the wheel and suggested Coastal Federation as a resource.
  - f) Pete said Southport Elementary has an outdoor classroom with access to the water, but there had not been enough interest yet to develop a program.
  - g) Bob said he had some environmental curriculum materials and felt a multi-pronged approach would work and emphasized the importance of language and reading skills and empowering children in the program design. He suggested that BEAT could buy environmental books and magazines for school libraries. Pete suggested placing BEAT stickers inside the books.
  - h) Teddy noted Marty Menzer was running a surfer camp that included teaching participants about recycling and other environmental issues.
  - i) Board members agreed to find out about existing summer camps in their local areas and ask how BEAT could assist. Marilyn said she would contact the BC Parks and Recreation Director.
  - j) Bob described the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society activities around Earth Day and said they welcomed BEAT's participation in the event. Linda said she had looked into purchasing tree seedling to give away and Pete said he would ask the BC Extension office about this.
2. Bob discussed status of BEAT Facebook page. which Neil Gilbert set up. Bob said he drafted an email to Neil, but Dan suggested he wait until the Board meeting. After some discussion, members concluded that BEAT would need a new Facebook page. Members discussed posting that the current page will close down on January 1<sup>st</sup> after the new page is ready. Pete described his effort to migrate group page members to BEAT's business page and the differences between the two. Marilyn will work on getting a list of the current Facebook page group members. Then, when the new page is ready, BEAT can send each a message to like the new page. Pete said the Southport Elementary PTA has a different kind of Facebook page that allows for easier transition when individuals leave the organization and that he will find out more about this. Dwight noted it was important to avoid hostile relationships with other environmental groups.
  3. Dan briefed members on a recent meeting he and Pete attended regarding Southport's plans to build a wastewater treatment plant near the headwaters of Walden Creek, a primary nursery area and flood zone and Sunny Point blast zone. Teddy questioned why Southport would not use the BC wastewater treatment systems. Dan explained that the town decided to build its own plant after a comparing costs of using the county's services. Dan said that there were two options, and that Sunny Point was involved since Walden Creek forms a "natural barrier" to their facility. Dan suggested BEAT support Option 2 and that perhaps the unused land could be donated to the Nature Conservancy. He said BEAT should be vocal and active on this issue.
  4. Bob noted that the Beach Inlet Waterway Association was having a 2-day conference and that the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society was paying for a member to attend. Dan did not think the conference would tie into primary nursery area issues, but would be more about tourism and boat access. Pete noted there were plans to dredge the Cape Fear River to 47 feet rather than 43 feet, but time did not permit further discussion.
  5. Planning for October membership meeting continued. Pete announced he had secured the BEMC meeting room for October 22<sup>nd</sup> and that the meeting would run from 6:39=0 to 8:00 pm with Kemp Burdette as the guest speaker. Board members decided to hold a short (15 minute) business session at the beginning of the meeting since many attendees would leave after a question and answer period following Kemp's presentation. Marilyn said she would draft an agenda based on a template provided by Pete.

6. Committee Reports

- a) Linda updated Board members on activities of the Waste Management Committee including progress on the Festival of Trees project, which is a fundraiser for the NC Coastal Carolina Museum. She handed out copies of a flyer about the festival and of a Beacon newspaper article about it.
- b) Reporting for the Land Use Committee, Dan provided information about the status of the Superfund project in Navassa. He said he talked to Veronica Carter after the meeting and suggested the site could include an amphitheatre to attract tourists. Dan noted however, that BEAT's involvement is only to support environmental justice and not to make recommendations.

7. Announcements & Adjournment

- a) Bob reported the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society was sponsoring a teacher workshop.
- b) Linda asked Bob to post a link for Keep Brunswick Beautiful on the website.
- c) Pete made a motion for adjournment and Dan seconded the motion. Pete adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.