



Approved BEAT Board Minutes 2-1-21

Call to Order

President Pete Key called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:05 pm with the following Board members in attendance: Linda Eastman, Dan George, Bob Jakus, Pete Key, Sybil Murray Burgess, and Marilyn Priddy. Ted Janes and Dwight Willis were absent.

1. Pete's motion to approve the draft agenda passed following a second by Bob.
2. Bob noted the following correction for the January minutes - change university attended by Brayton Willis from Northeastern to Northwestern. No further changes were suggested, and Bob's motion to approve the draft minutes as amended passed following Dan's second.

Old Business

1. Marilyn reported that Brayton Willis asked for help in identifying organizations who can help support the NAACP proposal for Gullah Geechee Heritage Greenway/ Blueway. She asked members to provide contact information for a spreadsheet she is compiling. Suggestions included Nancy Celli (who presented information on litter clean-up at a 2020 board meeting) and the Coastal Federation.
2. Members discussed plans for a membership meeting in April. Marilyn said BEAT needed to hold a Zoom meeting to prevent the organization from falling apart.
 - a) After some discussion about who to invite as a keynote speaker, Dan suggested Emily Donovan, founder of Clean Cape Fear, would be the best fit with BEAT's focus on water quality in 2021.
 - b) Marilyn said Emily had been invited to speak last year and had been informed she would be the recipient of the annual award before the annual meeting was canceled. She also noted Emily lives in Brunswick County.
 - c) Marilyn agreed to invite Emily to speak on April 29th at 7 pm. Pete said he would send Board members information on how to register for the March Board meeting as a way to practice sending invitations for the April annual meeting.
 - d) Board members discussed how to get an award to Emily and will discuss this again in March.
 - e) Board members also discussed recognizing Dwight Willis' service to BEAT and many other community organizations. Members discussed suggestions by Sybil and Marilyn. (These were not included in the minutes in the event Dwight reads these.)

New Business

1. Bob discussed the Brunswick County online survey request. He said that he posted the link on the BEAT website and that the deadline for submitting a response is 2-15-21. Pete agreed with Bob that BEAT would be dropping the ball if BEAT did not encourage participation. Bob said responding to the survey was a way to get on the public record and be heard. He suggested that when more survey respondents include environmental issues as priorities, there could be progress toward these goals. Members discussed protecting wetlands, climate change and zoning. Pete talked about



sending out a message for BEAT members to use in the survey; Bob suggested just encouraging participation would be adequate.

2. Water Quality

- a) Members discussed the pending water rate increase in BC. Dan noted it is a direct result of Chemour's pollution of the water supply. Pete noted the 30% increase would hit those on a fixed income hard. Marilyn said she was frustrated by the County Manager's response that the increased rates would bring BC in line with other coastal counties and Pat Sykes' previous assertion that residents could just buy bottled water for awhile. Marilyn noted BC is rural and has many residents living in poverty. Linda talked about the environmental issues associated with bottled water and members discussed the explanation of water rate calculation that Linda received from the county agreeing that it was hard to understand. (Linda's email from the county was attached to the agenda.)
- b) Dan said that the water rate increase in BC is a symptom of a much larger problem with the system that allows corporations to poison the drinking water supply. He talked about advocating in Raleigh and about how Deb Butler listened to his concerns about fisheries in NC. He also noted that the SELC was involved in fighting to repeal the Hardison Amendment. Marilyn mentioned BEAT should approach Charlie Miller, recently elected the the newly drawn NC District 19 House of Representatives seat. Pete talked about the Hardison Amendment not allowing NC to impose stricter rules than those of the federal government. Members listed other examples of NC not allowing local communities to enforce stricter rules (plastic bags, masks, etc.). Pete said he would work on letters to the county and to DEQ. Dan discussed Chemours failure over the last three months to comply, noting NC DEQ missed an opportunity last September to shut the plant down.
- c) Members discussed partnerships with other groups concerning GenX and water quality. Dan talked about the progress Beth Kline-Markesino has made in getting water filters to low income families, but said he thought Emily Donovan had more leverage in BC.

3. Other

- a) Bob said he could include important historical events on the BEAT calendar (a this day in history feature) if members would send him information.
- b) Dan said he attended the most recent Superfund Zoom meeting. He explained that Navassa community members should have the input on what is done with the remediated property, but BEAT can help by supporting the Gullah Geechee greenway/blueway proposal, which will run through the site. He said 100 acres had the go ahead for development and that the Navassa would benefit from increased tax base. He talked about the changes in the area since the 140 bypass with a Navassa exit has been completed and about the the potential for water taxis to run from Wilmington water front to a Gullah Geechee culture heritage site in Navassa.

Adjournment

Pete announced the next Board meeting would be held at 6 pm on March 1st and adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.