



Town of Hilton Head Island
U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee

Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

MEETING MINUTES

Present From the Committee: David Johnson, *Chairman*; Frank Babel, Alex Brown, Tom Crews, Craig Forrest, Brendan Reilly, Sarah Stewart, John Taylor, Kyle Theodore, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*; Larry McElynn, *County Liaison*

Absent from Committee: Jerry Cutrer, Hannah Horne, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, *Members*; Dan Wood, *Bluffton Liaison*.

Present from Town Staff: Josh Gruber, *Assistant Town Manager*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

2. FOIA Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Invocation

Mr. Brown delivered the invocation.

4. New Business

a. Welcome and Introductions - Sarah Stewart, Committee Member

Ms. Stewart welcomed the members of the community who were in attendance as well as the members of the Committee. She asked each member of the Committee to stand and introduce themselves. Upon the completion of the introductions, Ms. Stewart gave a brief history of the Stoney Community as she could remember it.

b. Committee Background - Alex Brown, Committee Member

Mr. Brown provided a brief background of the Committee, first by giving his gratitude to Town Council for putting the Committee together. He said that the premise for the Committee is to share information as the Town and committee receives it. Mr. Brown explained that U.S. 278 is a federal highway maintained by the State, and that the SCDOT is responsible for providing information and feedback concerning the project. He said at this time, there isn't much to report, but it is important for all to remain engaged and continue to be involved as more information would be coming. Mr. Brown also provided copies of the memo from SCDOT regarding the Alternatives that the Committee submitted back in April. He wanted to make sure the community was aware of what feedback has been provided thus far.

c. Project Update and Status – David Johnson, Committee Chairman

Chairman Johnson provided an update and status report of where the Committee was in the process of the project. He noted that he wanted to speak directly to two questions; (i) where are we now? and (ii) who is involved? He noted that the SCDOT is one year into the NEPA study and is also working on other studies that they hope to have wrapped up by the end of summer. Chairman Johnson said that while the SCDOT has full control over the project, they will consider the final recommendation they receive from Town Council. Wrapping up the update, Chairman Johnson noted that as of right now, there isn't much information to share with the public at large, but once the SCDOT releases their alternatives, the information and communications to and from the public is critical. He echoed the statements made by Mr. Brown.

5. Public Comments

Several members of the community addressed the Committee, including State Representative Jeff Bradley, Town Councilman Tom Lennox, Town Councilman Marc Grant, Business Owner Lee Lucier, John Stewart, Shadasha Holmes, Betty Miller, and others. Many of the concerns were about the expansion of U.S. 278 through the Stoney Community and the consideration of the citizens living in the area. Other concerns were about the safety and the different turns in and out homes and businesses. Chairman Johnson touched on a concern regarding environmental and cultural, with regards to the cemetery on Jenkins Island. The Councilmen from the Town gave reassurance that the Town was standing behind the information that was being shared by the Committee and that it was the members of Town Council who put the Committee in place. Further, they had the confidence of both the Committee and Town staff to appropriately handle any situation that may come as a result of this project.

6. Adjournment

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: June 26, 2019