

WILPC MEETING OCTOBER 1, 2019

Attending members: Bob Cox, Madge Hallett, Burrow Hill, Henry Holst, April Long, Bertha Middleton, Mike Regan, Kevin Richbourg, Arthur Rivers, Robert Siedell, Pam Skinner, John Taylor

Estimated audience: 209

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Richbourg at 7:00 p.m.

The September minutes were approved.

Robert Siedell, Newsletter:

Next newsletter will come out in November. The deadline for submitting articles will be October 18. There will be information about WILPC nominations in the November issue. Kevin said that we are behind on nominations because of zoning issues that have come up on the island.

Bertha Middleton, Community Center:

October 26 will be the fall festival. This will be a family friendly event. \$5 admission. Fundraiser for a new roof for the WICC.

Pam Skinner, Zoning:

Pam gave a powerpoint overview of how the WILPC works with Charleston County Zoning, the Planning Commission, County Council and ZLDR. (See wilpc.org for the power point) The hot issues on Wadmalaw at the moment are the Bolt PDA and the proposed Mining operation. Also in the background is the American Timberlands property, but there hasn't been any news about the American Timberlands mitigation bank. Important dates for upcoming meetings regarding the Bolt PDA are the County Council Meetings on October 8 at 6:00 p.m., October 17 and October 22. She gave a brief history of the Wadmalaw Plan which was made a binding plan in 1990.

Betsy LaForce, Coastal Conservation League:

Betsy gave the reasons why CCL is against the Bolt PD. The CCL is concerned about unintended consequences of the PD. The PD runs with the land and could change years down the road. Wadmalaw is the least appropriate place for a PD. She reiterated that it is important for everyone to come to the Charleston County Council public hearing on October 8 at 6:00 p.m. They want to hear from Wadmalaw citizens. She said that we should get organized and figure out who is going to speak, don't repeat the same thing, only speak about the issue at

hand – the re-zoning. Be there to stand up when council asks who is there to oppose. She had a packet of information that would also be on the website. She said the CCL is there to help with advocacy efforts.

Kevin Richbourg:

Reminded everyone about the website: wilpc.org and implored everyone to show up at the meeting on October 8 and future meetings for other issues. He explained to the audience that WILPC is opposed to both PD -171 and the Mining operation. We do not want the Wadmalaw Plan to be watered down.

Mike Regan:

Mike summed up the history of the Bolt PD. There were multiple times that the Bolt Tree Houses could have been stopped but the different departments of the County didn't stop it because they were told that it was not for commercial purposes, only for friends and family. He gave the time line of events that have led us to today.

Kevin Richbourg:

Kevin said that it is clear that the WILPC has been opposed to the PD since the beginning and made suggestions of how you should write a letter to Charleston County Council regarding the Bolt PD. He read his own letter and implored the attendees to please send a letter but to keep it civil, polite and respectful. He repeated that all information is on wilpc.org.

Seth and Tori Bolt:

Seth Bolt offered an apology and an update. He said that they are considering pausing the PD application because the community has spoken and they hear us. They hope for grace and reconciliation with the community.

From the audience:

Has the maximum density been exceeded in terms of dwellings on the property? It meets the code. If PD is approved that means they want things that code doesn't allow.

If one property gets PD, then another property can get the same thing. Pam Skinner pointed out that 1/3 of Wadmalaw is under conservation. The core of issue is stopping others from doing the same thing.

If County dis-approves they have to wait one year to apply. This can go on and on as long as they have time and money.

The problem is the rental. They can build the maximum structures on the lots. They can build 9 structures but the problem is the number of nights and events they can have under the current short-term rental ordinance.

Is council aware of the documents that show the Bolts would never rent and how can they even consider approving the PD after that. The county needs to communicate with all of their departments.

Kevin explained that WILPC will be presenting to council but we don't have anymore time than the public does to make our case – 2 minutes. Again, it's important to come to the meetings.

Please plan to speak at the meeting. The WILPC will strategize and get our presentation out but everyone needs to speak if they want to.

Concerned about donations to Charleston County Council members from the Bolts. Public record.

Tell your story. Be polite. Be respectful. Look at your situation and do what you think is best for the island and make that your personal statement. It will resonate with council.

What lessons have been learned from this? How did we let it get this far? Go through the process. Get off social media and show up at meetings instead.

Are there any existing PD's on the island? Tea Farm, Vineyard. There are a handful. They were agricultural not commercial.

We love this island. We want it to stay rural and we come together. When you come to paradise we don't change it. There is multi-generational support for keeping Wadmalaw rural. We love the land and it's nothing personal.

There should be no compromise.

Show up and be heard. Continue to follow issues. Get to know county leaders and use the power of your vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Total for WICC: \$430

Total for WICC to date for 2019: \$1,069

Respectfully submitted,

Madge Hallett
Secretary

