



**Bald Head Island Conservancy, Inc**

**Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting  
January 26, 2008**

The Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Malcolm J. Fleming Environmental Center on Bald Head Island. President Dick Johnston called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. with a quorum present, and presided. Fifty eight members were in attendance, and a total of forty six proxies and ballots were recorded.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the January 27, 2007 Annual Membership Meeting were reviewed.

*Motion: The minutes were approved unanimously.*

**Consent Agenda:** D. Johnston adjusts the proposed agenda by moving the Nominating Committee report to the beginning of the meeting. The revised agenda was approved.

**Nominating Committee:** David Ross moved for the nomination of new board members to the 2008 Board of Directors, and those returning for a second term. On the basis of forty six proxies and ballots, the seven nominees for the board were elected unanimously.

Dick Johnston  
Jane Johnson  
Ron Hutton  
Tancred Miller  
Adie Coy  
Gene Douglas  
John Fisher

For those unfamiliar with Tancred Miller, Suzanne Dorsey discussed that he is a graduate of the Duke Nicholas School of the Environment. Tancred has experience with environmental education with a job at the Sierra Club. Currently he is on the staff at the Division of Coastal Reserve and will have important technical information for the proposed Inlet Hazard Area designation and other coastal issues important to the BHI community.

**Conservation and Environmental Leadership**

**Water Quality Community Forums:** Suzanne Dorsey explained the role of the Conservancy as providing objective information to the community to facilitate decisions based on long-term, sustainable living. In response to community concern and confusion about the ongoing dispute between the Village Utilities and the BHI Club a panel consisting of DeWayne Anderson, Ken Reckhow, and Tom Hayden was formed to review reports submitted the Village of BHI, the Bald Head Island Club and a Conservancy funded review by Dr. Lawrence Cahoon of UNCW. Details of Dr.

Cahoon's report are on the BHIC web page. Based on facts from Dr. Cahoon's report and Dr. Reckhow's input the Conservancy concluded two facts: (1) Keeping water on the island is crucial as the current drought conditions are predicted to become the average condition from climate change; and (2) The "least worst" solution for the environment and the sustainable community is to keep using the current infiltration ponds. Dr. Cahoon's report concluded that if parties were unable to come to an agreement the island should consider putting the R/O effluent into the maritime forest. Although it's unlikely that state or federal agencies that manage the forest preserve would allow the effluent to be placed in the forest, the suggestion highlights the independent review provided by Dr. Cahoon—the Conservancy would not have suggested or encourages such a solution.

**Deer Management:** In 2007 BHI experienced the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest deer population the island since the population has been monitored. Since radio-collaring deer cannot take place simultaneous to culling this was an excellent opportunity to begin the process of determining if non-lethal management can be used on BHI. Radio collar tags will be placed on does to determine whether or not the deer are moving off island. Experts have begun collecting this data by darting does and attaching radio collars on the island. Citizens can help by recording the location and the activity of tagged deer (they have bright tags with numbers in their ears). 16 total deer will be collared.

**Contract with the Village for Environmental Leadership:** DeWayne Anderson discussed the book Bowling Alone and the importance of social capital leadership and environmental management. According to the book "The community as a whole will benefit by the cooperation of all its parts, while the individual will find in his associations the advantages of the help, the sympathy, and the fellowship of his neighbors." The Contract for Environmental Research Services by and between the Village of Bald Head Island and the BHI Conservancy [attached] demonstrates this public/private partnership for the good of the whole community. The contract is crucial in providing the community the tools to make informed decisions, as well as providing the opportunity to have a regional impact in local governments, counties etc. The staff person (Research Assistant Professor) assigned to provide these services will be a Ph.D. and could come from a variety of backgrounds ranging from marine science to policy. The position is currently a one year position with the village to be reevaluated after the first year and ideally a two – three year position with the BHI Conservancy.

*[Note: "Bowling Alone" will be made available at cost at Turtle Central for \$9 each. DeWayne recommended pages 19-24 as well as the last paragraph of the book.]*

**Barrier Island Study Center (BISC) and Project 20/20:** David Ross reported three major grants received this year from the following foundations: \$500,000 from the F.M. Kirby Foundation, \$50, 000 from the George and Cynthia Mitchell Foundation and \$35,000 from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. \$1.3 million remains to fund the \$2.5 million project.

**Annual Campaign for the Environment:** Kathryn Page reported on the Annual Campaign for Watts and Betsy Carr [attached] and asked that members support Watts and Betsy who are again chairing the 2008 campaign.

**Priorities for 2008:** Suzanne referenced the Executive Director's Report [attached]

### **Education**

**2007 Summary:** Suzanne Dorsey reviewed the Director of Education/Senior Naturalist Report [attached]. A new Environmental Educator position has been created to improve the number of programs offered, as well as allow Maureen Dewire, Director of

Education, to attend graduate school. The position will begin prior to the 2008 summer season.

**Membership Campaign to support Education:** John May reported on a 2007 successful Membership Campaign [attached] and stressed the value of membership.

**Priorities for 2008:** Suzanne Dorsey referenced the Director of Education/Senior Naturalist Report [attached].

### **Preservation/SILT**

**Land Acquisition 2007:** Bob Helgesen reported 5 major donations to SILT in 2007 totaling \$5.25 million. Total land value is currently approx. \$24 million in 84 acres of land.

**Nominees for 2008 SILT Board:** Bob Helgesen named the following members of the 2008 SILT Board:

Bob Helgesen, President  
Kit Adcock  
Ken Miller, Treasurer  
Ann Pickering, Past President

He also acknowledged Barry Kane and Bob Overstreet as departing SILT board members.

**Priorities for 2008:** The 2008 priorities for SILT include the following: (1) evaluate additional motivational tools to encourage donations, (2) look closer at different types of land and the connectivity of parcels, (3) explore other sources of funding in order to purchase parcels and (4) put together a pool of funds to pull from when additional resources are required.

### **Financial Discussion**

**2007 Financial Summary:** The treasurer, Barry Kane, reviewed and summarized the distributed BHIC financials [attached]. 2007 was successfully executed by staff within 1% of budget based on the preliminary year end financials.

### **Announcements and Recognition**

Dick Johnston recognized all departing Board Members with gifts:

Bob Overstreet  
Anne Boozell  
Alice Horton

Dick Johnston announced the event being held for property owners hosted by the Johnstons and Wisners in Wilmington on February 22, 2008 to promote practical solutions on barrier islands.

### **Membership Comments**

Larry Lammert reported on property purchased by the Village allowing for expansion of the Village Creek Access. The property is currently restricted to be used only as a single family dwelling. Larry asked for support in having the zoning changed in order for the Village to proceed in expanding the creek access area.

Lammert also noted the deed to the property donated by John and Beverly Fisher allows for the right to build an educational platform on the property. This is not a common occurrence and thanked the Fisher's for their generous contribution.

Dick Johnston added that the normal process would be to introduce this type of public viewing improvement on a property, but that John Fisher had come to him with this specific idea for their donation. In this case the Conservancy was happy to work with the donors to put the enabling language in the easement and that it would be a very valuable public resource. We all thank the Fishers for this but the process will continue to not assume or ask for this enhancement.

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn which was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Timbers, Operations Assistant  
For Jim Wisner, Secretary