

BHI
Conservancy
Annual
Membership
Meeting

January 31

2009

The following documents have been attached for your reference: Annual Membership Meeting Agenda, January 26, 2008 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes, Slate of Board Nominees, Committee Reports, Proxy





Bald Head Island Conservancy Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, January 31, 2009
1:00pm at the Fleming Environmental Center

Desired outcomes:

**Celebration of 2008, our 25th anniversary successes*

1:00pm	I. Meeting Opening	Johnston
1:05pm	II. Review and Approval of 2007 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes	Johnston
1:10pm	III. Nomination Committee presents the slate of board nominees	Copan/Carr
	IV. Recording of attendance, ballots and proxies	
1:20pm	V. Discussion Points:	
	A. Conservation & Environmental Leadership	
	1. Hearty report on Beach and Aquifer	Hearty
	2. Port Study Fund	Dorsey/Hearty
	3. Deer update	Dorsey
	4. Barrier Island Study Center and Project 20/20	Cathcart
	5. Annual Fund for the Environment	Carr
	6. Priorities for 2009	Hearty
1:45pm	B. Education and Outreach	
	1. 2008 Summary	Dewire/Harms
	2. 2008 Membership Campaign	May
	3. Priorities for 2009	Dewire
2:00pm	C. Preservation/SILT	
	1. Land Acquisition 2008	Helgesen
	2. Priorities for 2009	
2:15pm	VI. Financial Discussion and Committee Reports	
	A. 2008 Financial Summary	Miller
	B. Committee Reports	
	1. Building and Grounds	Douglas
	2. Marketing, PR and Communications Committee	Fisher
	3. Governance	Wisner
	4. House	Johnson
	5. Development (Project 20/20, Membership, Annual Fund already presented)	Ross
	Events	Copan
	Grants	VanSant
	6. Volunteer	Grantmyre
	7. SILT (already presented)	Helgesen
	8. Education	Easterling
	9. Retail Operations	Wisner

- 2:45pm VII. Announcements and Recognition** Johnston
- A. Outgoing Board Members
 - 1. Ann Cathcart
 - 2. Barry Kane
 - 3. Mary Peyton
 - 4. Ann Pickering
 - 5. Jim Wisner
 - B. Joyce and Wayne Lambert
 - C. Recognition of Susan Coryell
- VIII. Results from election of new board members** Johnston
- 2:55pm IV. Membership Comments**
- 3:00pm X. Wrap up discussion**



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 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 of 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 3rd 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.

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

Nomination Committee 2008 Report

The nomination Committee is pleased to announce the following slate for the Board of Directors:

Missy Anderson, Island Resident

Missy and Doug Anderson live on Green Teal but maintain a home in Charlotte. Missy has the distinction of being an adult state tennis champion spanning a range from 1984 through at least the 1990s! She also provides color commentary duties for the Duke Radio Network. Missy is an avid fisher, boater, and golfer. Missy and Doug are Conservancy members and donors to project 20/20. We look forward to her bring great enthusiasm for the island and for the work of the Conservancy.

Dr. William "Butch" Farabow, Island resident

Dr. Farabow has a home in Timbercreek and is an OB/Gyn physician in High Point. He demonstrates his love and dedication to children and education as a founding member of the Greensboro Children's Museum. He is also active in ministry as a director of the Journey Resources Mission in Greensboro. Butch will be an experienced Conservancy Board member having served on the Board from 2002-06. Butch is a life member and has contributed to 20/20. His strong connections state wide and passion for BHI will bring energy and enthusiasm to our board.

Mike Dunn, Institute leader

Mike is the Coordinator of Teacher Education for the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Mike lives in Wake County but has been providing teacher education workshops at the Conservancy for several years now. He is very active in working with educators statewide. He loves Bald Head Island and has worked with Maureen Dewire for years. He is an avid outdoorsman with experience as a naturalist and as an educator. He will bring to the Conservancy a strong partnership opportunity with the Museum and a keen statewide perspective on the many conservation and education issue we are facing.

David Jessen, Island Resident

David lives on Sabal Palm Court but maintains a home in Raleigh. Is a CPA and retired Partner and Director of Entrepreneurial Services at Ernst and Young. He has served on the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation Board of Directors and is finishing his last year in the BHA Financial Committee. David was also the 2004 winner of the Bald Head Rodeo Fishing Tournament. He is a life member and a 20/20 donor. We look forward to David's proven financial skills coupled with his dedication to the Conservancy and to BHI.

Brook Williams, Island Resident

Brook divides his time between his East Beach home and his Pennsylvania home in Berwyn. He brings extensive professional and management experience in the insurance/risk management industry. During his early career in Charlotte and later in Philadelphia, he was very active in civic and community affairs, and was often called upon to accept leadership positions in the most challenging campaigns. Brooke is a life member and a 20/20 donor and has expressed interest in helping us with our fundraising goals.

2008 Marketing Committee Report

2008 Goals: Expanding recognition as leader and expert resource knowledgeable in protecting barrier islands.

Objective A. **Image:** To manage the perceptions of the public by conveying consistently appealing designs that support the Conservancy's recognition by sparking interest among target audiences, generating brand equity and facilitate program involvement.

- *Consistency and brand equity has been seen throughout the year in the Conservancy Corner, Conservator, the Association's Island Report and other Conservancy Communications.*

Objective B. **Written Communications:** To convey through written communications the BHIC image

Objective C. **Web Page:** To develop this as a resource of information that is competitive and serves the mission and needs of the organization and its participants.

- *Updates and upgrades have been updated and integrated into the website*

Objective D: **Media:** To position the Conservancy as the leader in barrier island conservation and sustainable coastal management.

- *The conservancy was consistently represented in the State Port Pilot and often the Star News. Most recently in the Wilmington Business Journal for the receipt of the Significant Achievement Award by the Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Awards Program.*

Objective E: **Other Materials:** To develop and distribute associated materials that promote the mission and needs of the organization.

Objective F. **Signage:** To create appropriate signage with consistency of image to advance the mission of the Conservancy.

- *New signage at the entrance of the Conservancy Campus was introduced this year*
- *Signage at Turtle Central, Administrative offices, in bulletin boards on island and at special events were consistent and professional throughout the year.*
- *Great increase of signage at the picnic this year.*

2009 Mission/Objectives:

The marketing committee intends to further efforts for the overall strengthening of the Conservancy's branding, themes and messages by stressing the importance of "consistency". The committee will accomplish this through interaction and working with all conservancy employees, interns, volunteers and committees in the 2009 calendar year.

Governance Committee Annual Report

The Governance Committee had a very quiet year in 2008. There were no by-law changes promulgated and there were no by-law searches requested.

Jim Wisner, Chair

Volunteer Committee

Annual Report

The purpose of the volunteer committee of the Bald Head Island Conservancy is to increase awareness of the need for and the recruitment of volunteers.

Primarily, the committee recruits and schedules volunteers for Turtle Central. This dedicated group of men and women serve as volunteer staff for Turtle Central, but more importantly, they are often the face and point of information for the Conservancy. Visitors to Turtle Central look to our volunteers for information about the flora and fauna of our island. And of course, our guests always want to know about the turtles. Our TC volunteers are an invaluable resource for the Conservancy and the island community. In 2008, 35 TC volunteers provided over 2000 hours of service to the Conservancy.

The committee hopes this year to encourage and increase volunteerism in other areas of the Conservancy. Needs include:

Docents for the Conservancy classroom

Office assistants in the office

Off-board members for Conservancy Board committees

Of course there is an on-going need for sea turtle nest monitors but their recruitment and training is done by Conservancy staff. The hours these dedicated volunteers contribute are incalculable, as is their significance to the survival of this precious species.

Education Committee Report

Annual Meeting

A. Educational Brochures

Several educational brochures highlighting the current wildlife issues on BHI were designed and produced for distribution on the island and in rental packets.

- a. Snakes of BHI: Venomous vs. Non-Venomous
- b. Red Fox
- c. Loggerhead Sea Turtle (in final editing stages now)
- d. Native Plant List – (available at BHIC office and classroom)

B. New Programs

- a. Developed new summer camp in response to demand for current summer camps; these were designed in large part to draw older kids away from Conservancy Camp which will open spots for wait listed kids; the new camp is an afternoon “Youth Eco-Adventures” camp that will have a weekly theme.
- b. After reviewing the 2008 summer season and participant surveys, the traditional summer programs/lectures have been overhauled, combined or re-named for 2009 in order to attract both returning and new participants.
- c. Website development of education and sea turtle protection program pages (some still in progress).

C. Programs and Participants

- a. Educated over 15,000 people in 2008
- b. Offered nearly 700 educational programs in 2008

D. Outreach

- a. Established relationships with local organizations to enhance outreach to underprivileged/challenged youths; these will be ongoing and increased in 2009

Turtle Central Committee-year end 2008

Members: Adie Coy, Ann Cathcart, Judy Porter, Ricki Grantmyre, Trisha Barnard, Suzanne Dorsey and Jim Wisner, chair.

We discussed a broad range of issues:

1. There is a near term insufficiency of staff and volunteers to get inventory recorded, priced and displayed...let alone work on other things.
2. Our current point of sales software which feeds into Quick Books (by design) collects a lot of data...but getting useful reports for management purposes may or may not be available/easy to get. Do we need more features, more training, different software, etc.?
3. E-Commerce increases the dependency on accurate, timely and easy reports for control. This could cause a delay in implementation...but not research into its feasibility.
4. Profits are down. This could be good in light of economy and increasing on-island competition () Due to #2 above, this is difficult to assess. E.g. what sells when? Inventory turns vs space used vs item profitability? We know our space is fully used...but is it properly used and should it be seasonally adjusted?
5. Our marketplace exclusives seem to be at least:
 - a. BHIC Logo Wear
 - b. Things turtle
 - c. Toys (this is a big one)
6. Visitors/Shoppers aren't generally aware that 100% of our profits support BHIC operations and programs. Should we make them aware? How do we do it best? Signs, banners, bag stuffers?
7. Volunteers are extremely important to our results...we need more and perhaps some with a different focus like inventory only. Weekends are particularly important during this crunch time of arriving goods. Also, volunteers could be a great source of ideas...we need to get their feedback.

We recommended:

1. Turtle Central needs a full time experienced manager to coordinate buying, inventory control, staffing and marketing. This was implemented in late 2008.
2. Turtle Central needs to create more traffic. As we are far from other retail establishments we need to attract vacationers and their guests with discounts, free gifts (ie "a quick guide to the flora and fauna of BHI") and destination activities such as animal cut outs for pictures, nature displays, etc.
3. Internet sales need to be carefully studied in light of the difficulty of shipping from the Island, inventory control, and potentially significant start up costs.
4. Volunteering at Turtle Central needs to be more fun.

Proxy

The undersigned member of the Bald Head Island Conservancy, Inc., a North Carolina non-profit organization hereby constitutes and appoints:

(Select One) _____ Dick Johnston, President, or
_____ Jay Copan, Secretary, or
_____ a person designated by me to hold my proxy:

(Proxy holder's name)

any of these with full power of substitution, attorneys-in-fact and proxies to act and vote for and on behalf of the undersigned at the below referenced meeting and any adjournment thereof, as the undersigned would be able to act and vote if personally present, and the undersigned hereby instructs said attorneys to vote:

- At the Annual Membership Meeting to be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Malcolm J. Fleming Environmental Center; and
- For the following slate of nine candidates for positions on the Board of Directors as put forth by the Nominating Committee for three year terms, all of which shall begin at the conclusion of the January Board of Directors meeting:

(X) For persons specified here or
_____ check here to accept all candidates

(1) _____ DeWayne Anderson (second term)

(2) _____ Missy Anderson

(3) _____ Watts Carr (second term)

(4) _____ Jay Copan (second term)

(5) _____ Mike Dunn

(6) _____ Dr. William "Butch" Farabow

(7) _____ David Jessen

(8) _____ David Ross (second term)

(9) _____ Brook Williams

Please complete:

Member Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date Signed _____

Please return in the envelope provided, or fax to 910-457-9824 or email: timbers@bhic.org