

**Minutes**

**Land Committee**

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

August 22, 2018

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Dwight Davis, Chair  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Evans  
Ray Lambert  
Rob Leebern  
Billy New  
Mike Phelps  
Brother Stewart  
Aaron McWhorter, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison  
Joe Hatfield  
Duncan Johnson  
Mark Mobley  
Bodine Sinyard  
Miki Thomaston  
Philip Wilheit  
Dee Yancey

Guests

Bill Hodges  
Jim Reyner  
Bryan Tolar  
Ronny Just  
Dan Grogan  
Andy Fleming  
Chris Manganiello  
Brant Lane  
Deb Phillips  
Kelly Jordan

Staff Members

Terry West, DNR Deputy Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Melanie Johnson  
Wes Robinson  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Artica Gaston  
Matthew Smith  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
Jon Ambrose  
John Bowers  
James Hamilton  
Matt Thomas  
Karl Burgess  
Alan Isler  
Michael Staton  
Phillip Spivey  
Dallas Ingram  
Amanda Hrubesh  
VJ Nandiraju  
Farida Lammari  
Gary Beale  
  
Richard Dunn, EPD Director  
Lauren Curry  
Jeff Cown

Karen Hays  
Chuck Mueller  
Laura Williams  
Sydney Brogden  
Jim Cooley  
Jason Metzger  
Sarah Vesser  
Erin Ruoff  
Shannon Alexander

The August 22, 2018 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Chairman Aaron WcWhorter.

Chairman McWhorter called on Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Land Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of the Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated Items A, B and C would be presented together. He stated all properties were Canoochee Sandhill properties in Bulloch County.

Item A was the acquisition of 1,318.9± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, Warnell Timber and Land, L.P. Tract in Bulloch County. Mr. Friedman added that this land will become part of a new Wildlife Management Area and that it is important for the conservation of the gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake, as well as other unique species.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item B was the acquisition of 695.5± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, D.B. Warnell Estate Tract in Bulloch County. Mr. Friedman went on to state that this was another property that will become part of a new Wildlife Management Area and reiterated the importance of the area for the conservation of the gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake, along with other unique species.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item C was the acquisition of 670.2± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, Bunce Tract in Bulloch County. Mr. Friedman further stated that this was another property that will become part of a new Wildlife Management Area and reiterated the importance of the area for the conservation of the gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake, along with other unique species.

A motion was made by Mr. Phelps, seconded by Mr. Stewart, and carried unanimously that the committee recommend the Board adopt: the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to acquire (purchase) 1,318.9± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, Warnell Timber and Land, L.P. Tract, Bulloch County, as presented; the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties

Commissioner approval to acquire (purchase) 695.5± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, D.B. Warnell Estate Tract, Bulloch County, as presented; the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to acquire (purchase) 670.2± acres of real property, Canoochee Sandhills, Bunce Tract, Bulloch County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item D was the acquisition of 10.04± acres of real property, F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc. Tract, Harris County. Mr. Friedman added that this property is an important holding for the F.D. Roosevelt State Park and is a prime spot for development since it is close to a large park camping area and recreation lake. He went on to state that the Department will acquire the property with State funds after seeking acquisition approval from the State Properties Commission in September of 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Leebern, and carried unanimously that the committee recommend the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to acquire (purchase) 10.04± acres of real property, F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc. Tract, Harris County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item E was the request of a change of use of a Heritage Preserve to widen SR 52 ALT up from 0.194± acres at Town Branch, Chief Vann House Historic Site, Murray County. Mr. Friedman added that a public hearing to discuss a petition from the Georgia Department of Transportation for a change of use over a portion of the CVHHS to allow the widening of SR 52 ALT was held on May 31, 2018 and chaired by Board member Dee Yancey at the Old Spring Place Methodist Church. Mr. Friedman went on to state that local citizens attended the meeting and that most public comments focused on the impact the GDOT project will have on the local community or general upkeep of CVHHS and not the Heritage Preserve change of use. Mr. Friedman then stated that the Board will vote to approve the granting of the revocable license agreement and a permanent easement to GDOT in a separate Board package, and that the legislation required for the change of use will be carried by GDOT and presented to the General Assembly in 2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Davis, and carried unanimously that the committee recommend the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval of a Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve to widen SR 52 ALT up to 0.194± acres at Town Branch, Chief Vann House Historic Site, Murray County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item F was the granting of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement of up to 0.5± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Chief Vann House Historic Site in Murray County. Mr. Friedman added that since this will be of benefit to the public and increase overall safety, the Department recommends they be granted to GDOT at no cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Phelps, and carried unanimously that the committee recommend the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval of the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.5± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Chief Vann House Historic Site, Murray County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item G was the granting of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement of up to 0.25± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission (GPTC), F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Meriwether County. Mr. Friedman went on to state that this easement requires a revocable license agreement be issued by the State Properties Commission and a permanent easement to be granted by the General Assembly. Since the revocable license agreement and the permanent easement will benefit public safety, the Department recommends they be granted to GPTC at no cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Stewart, and carried unanimously that the committee recommend the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval of the Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.25± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission, F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Meriwether County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman provided a briefing on a change of use of a Heritage preserve for up to 6± acres to widen SR 25/US 17 and SR 99, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site in Glenn County. Mr. Friedman stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation submitted a letter of petition requesting change of use of Heritage Preserve designated property as required under Chapter 391-1-8. He went on to state that GDOT has plans to widen the SR 25/US 17 corridor and to install a roundabout at the intersection of SR 25/US 17 and SR 99. Mr. Friedman then stated that the petition is for a revocable license and a permanent easement over 6± acres to improve traffic flow and public safety. Mr. Friedman added that GDOT will implement a number of erosion-control and remediation measures to minimize the impact of the project on the heritage preserve during and after construction. Following construction, these erosion-control materials will be removed and the area will be graded and grassed to return the land to an acceptable condition. Mr. Friedman closed by stating that the Department will hold a public hearing in late September or early October 2018 as required, giving the Board and public at least 30 days' notice, and will bring the matter back to the Board for final approval in late 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.