



South Douglas Scenic Byway  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Dog River Library Community Meeting Room  
And virtual access on Microsoft Teams  
June 25, 2021  
12:00 p.m.  
Meeting Summary

**Attendees:**

**Community Members:** Rick Cali, Pam Daniell, Ed Daniell, Paula Arnett, Barbara Lindley, Albert Lindley, Cedric Duncan, Kyle Gable, Jeremiah Parunack, Vanessa Levingston, Altona Rane, Janet Payne, Mike Mulcare, Gwen Sommers Redwine (virtual), Ed Carlton (virtual)

**Board of Commissioners:** Kelly Robinson, Tarenia Carthan

**Planning and Zoning Board:** Frank Payne

**Douglas County Staff:** James Worthington, Ron Roberts, Phil Shafer (online)

**Strategic Plan Consultant:** Linus Savage

**I. Q&A with Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority**

Mike Henry, Water Plant Superintendent with the WSA, joined the meeting to answer questions on behalf of WSA. He provided information on the maintenance and management of the Dog River Reservoir and Bear Creek Reservoir. He also provided an update on raising the level of the Dog River Reservoir and sewer line installation in the south west corner of the county.

There were questions from the community about the impact of septic tanks. WSA is regularly performing upstream and downstream monitoring for water quality and they will address any point source issues as they arise. There generally have not been any issues. They allow for limited recreation opportunities on the Dog River Reservoir, including fishing. They do not allow for swimming. Allison Duncan indicated that there have been some preliminary conversations with WSA staff about the possibility of connecting a trail network through WSA property in the area.

WSA has received their permits to raise the reservoir 35 feet. They expect construction to start on that project next year, but anticipate that it will take 5-10 years for completion. Improvements will include raising the level of the dam and raising the level of the bridge over Highway 166 to accommodate the higher water level.

**II. Review of Character Areas**

Allison Duncan presented an overview of the proposed final segments for consideration of character area development. Segments 1, 2 and 5 generally fell within the boundaries presented at the May meeting. She asked for additional discussion on the appropriate boundaries of segments 3 and 4 due to the anticipated expansion of sewer in those areas.

Feedback from the Committee captured the following ideas:



- There was general consensus that the preference for the area would be to keep it viable for rural residential and recreational opportunities
- It is preferable for the area highlighted in blue to align more with the rural residential character of the orange segment; it is preferable that the expansion of the rural recreational elements be contained to the footprint of Foxhall and the Preserve
- Concerns were expressed as to preservation of areas suitable to sustain wildlife, including preservation of habitat
- Concerns were expressed about increased traffic in the area; a preference was articulated for the introduction of roundabouts at the intersections at 166/ Capps Ferry Road and 166/ Post Road
- Concerns were expressed about increased heavy truck traffic in the area
- Concerns were expressed as to the impact of new development on the existing schools in the area
- Concerns were expressed that the impact from Foxhall and The Preserve will be greater than what is anticipated in some of the conceptual planning documents

### **III. Proposed Tour Map**

The GDOT Scenic Byway designation manual suggests that tours of the proposed byway are an effective way to educate the public on the proposed corridor. Allison Duncan presented a proposed tour route for discussion by the Committee. Once finalized, the tour map will be published online and staff will conduct tours upon request.

In addition to familiarizing the community with the intrinsic qualities of the area, the tour will also inform the formal application, insofar as it documents many of the intrinsic qualities of the proposed byway. Allison Duncan asked for feedback on the proposed route, and the resources identified for inclusion. Feedback from the committee captured the following ideas:

- There are opportunities to conduct programs with the schools to get students involved in the Scenic Byway
- There are opportunities to introduce new agricultural initiatives, such as growing ethnically specific produce for diverse communities in the Atlanta area; this has been piloted at existing farms in the area
- Create greater awareness of the importance of water quality protection for both Dog River and Bear Creek reservoir; consider mirroring the protections of the Dog River basin in the Bear Creek basin, as the Bear Creek Reservoir is intrinsically tied to the Dog River Reservoir in times of drought or strain on the system

Several committee members expressed interest in taking a staff-led tour. Allison Duncan will follow up individually to get that scheduled. She reminded all participants that staff would be glad to conduct tours for any groups that might be interested.

### **IV. Public Participation Plan and Social Media Plan**

Allison Duncan indicated that staff had developed a public participation plan and social media plan in anticipation of submitting the formal application to GDOT. The public participation plan is a narrative of all public engagement opportunities. The social media plan is a detailed schedule of posts for the Douglas County Happenings Facebook page and the Douglas County



Happenings e-newsletter. She also reminded participants that information will be regularly updated on the project website and project blog. Both documents are being updated regularly and are available for review upon request.

**V. Next Steps**

Allison Duncan shared the slide of the project timeline and milestones. She shared the project video that had been produced and indicated that it would be posted online. She also indicated that the required application would be submitted to GDOT in early July. After it is submitted, Douglas County must wait for their approval before we can proceed to the Corridor Management Plan. Timelines and milestones will be adjusted as needed based on receiving GDOT approval of the application.