

ROANOKE VOYAGES CORRIDOR COMMITTEE

- Call to Order** The **Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee** met on Thursday, **October 27, 2011** at 9:56 AM in the Executive Director's office at Roanoke Island Festival Park. Voting members present: Elmer Midgett, Chair; Sterling Webster, RIC Chair; Malcolm Fearing; Grayson Kelley, Attorney General designee; Angel Khoury; and Dale Petty. Commission members present: Eddy Browning, Perry White, and Earl Willis. Also present: Glenna Shelton Browning, Plymouth, NC resident; and Dwight Gregory, Friends of *Elizabeth II*, Inc. Board Treasurer. Staff present: Kim Sawyer, Executive Director of Roanoke Island Festival Park; and Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Secretary designee; Warren Judge; and Fountain Odom.
- Welcome** Chairman Elmer Midgett welcomed all in attendance and introduced new committee member Dale Petty.
- Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes** The agenda was adopted by consensus.
On motion by Malcolm Fearing and second by Grayson Kelley, the minutes for July 22, 2011 were approved by consensus.
- Old Business**
Underground Utilities along Corridor
Elmer Midgett
- Chairman Midgett, on behalf of Fountain Odom, provided the following progress report on underground utilities along the Corridor:
- County continues with water line installation on Roanoke Island.
 - Corridor would benefit if everything were underground.
 - Trees would temporarily suffer.
- New Business**
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Sign
Elmer Midgett
- Chairman Midgett reported that under RVC Regulations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested a wayfinding sign. Chairman Midgett noted the following:
- Definition of a wayfinding sign.
 - Approval process of wayfinding signage.
 - Group would qualify for a wayfinding sign according to RVC Regulations.
- Discussion followed regarding the wayfinding signage request by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, with the following being noted:
- Description and locations of wayfinding signs (Midgett and Khoury).
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife is building a Visitor Center (Khoury) on the north end of Roanoke Island (Midgett).
 - Print gets smaller the more that is added to signage (Midgett).
 - Option of adding groups to signs closer in instead of to all signs (Khoury).
 - Request for a copy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife sign application (Fearing).
 - Question of who answers questions to provide clarification (Fearing).
 - Verification that he is personally unable to answer questions since he is not RIC Counsel (Kelley); questions go to committee chair (Midgett).
 - Question of how the new RIC legislation changes what the RIC does (Fearing).
 - New legislation only refers to enforcement of the Corridor and RVC Regulations, which the legislative bodies gave to the Town and to the County; nothing in the new legislation changes what this committee or Commission does regarding the issuance of a sign (Midgett).
 - July 22, 2011 meeting minutes included asking Grayson Kelly for clarification (Fearing).
 - The opinion was that it was clear enough; all he can do is take it to committee (Midgett).
 - Request that new members be provided the new RIC legislation and RVC Regulations (Fearing).
 - Agreement to follow up (Sawyer).
 - Agreement to review the RVC Regulations with Dale Petty; agreement to provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife wayfinding sign application to Malcolm Fearing (Midgett).
 - No interpretation of the new RIC legislation received to date from the Attorney General's Office (Fearing).
- Motion* Angel Khoury made a motion to recommend to the Commission tomorrow approval of the wayfinding sign for U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Grayson Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding the motion, with Malcolm Fearing questioning the authority of this board to take such action. The
- Vote*

motion carried with Malcolm Fearing voting in opposition for reasons stated.

Concluding thoughts were noted as follows:

- RIC was party to the taskforce that developed the signage for the benefit of all Roanoke Island attractions and to increase visitation to local businesses; essence of RIC is to tend to the Corridor because RIC is a party to the development of the signage and the logical group to ensure signage is maintained (Khoury).
- New legislation changes some of those rules; RIC no longer has full authority over the Corridor; legislation gives some authority to Dare County and to the Town (Fearing).
- Question whether it is reasonable to assume this signage request will be approved and implemented on signs closer to that facility (Petty).
 - Depends on DOT funds (Khoury).
 - Legislation verbiage says DOT *may* (not *shall*) (Midgett).
 - Questions the benefit of the signage starting mid way (Petty); agreement (Khoury).
 - Task force looked into the addition of new signage and developed suggestions for how to add to existing signs; DOT engineers are adept at determining how much somebody can read at what speed (Khoury).
- Concern that U.S. Fish and Wildlife facility not trump other groups or be given preference to others on directional signs (Petty).

Reports No reports were provided.

Commission Recommendations Chairman Midgett reported that two items would be recommended to the Commission the following day: the wayfinding sign for U.S. Fish and Wildlife as well as the wayfinding sign for Island Farm voted on earlier in the year. Malcolm Fearing requested a copy of the Island Farm motion before the RIC meeting tomorrow.

Announcements Chairman Midgett reported that prior to the new RIC legislation, a part-time Corridor Administrator enforced Corridor regulations. The position was terminated due to lack of DOT funding. Chairman Midgett said he took up those responsibilities without compensation, but the new legislation removed the burden by giving it to the County and to the Town. County and Town Planners, in their respective localities, are now enforcing RIC regulations. Discussion was held with the following being noted:

- Question of how the County and the Town contacts violators; request that this committee be notified in some way as well; e.g., with copies of letters (Khoury).
- Agreement to visit the County and the Town Planners today and request that the RVCC receive copies of any violation notifications sent out (Midgett).
- Thanks to Chairman Midgett for doing an excellent job as an unpaid Corridor Administrator (Sawyer).

Malcolm Fearing requested that legal counsel be provided to the Commission and the committee due to changes from the new legislation, like has been provided in the past by the Attorney General's Office. Grayson Kelley responded that any requests for an opinion be sent to him so he can assign it to someone. Members discussed and Mr. Kelley agreed for all requests to come to him from either the RIC Executive Director or the RIC Chairman.

The next meeting of the Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee will be Friday, January 27, 2012 at 9:45 AM pending approval of the 2012 RIC schedule at the October 28, 2011 RIC meeting.

Adjournment With no further business, and upon motion by Grayson Kelley and second by Malcolm Fearing, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17AM.

Minutes submitted by: Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant

Upon a vote by the Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee, approved by:

Elmer Midgett, Chair, Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee