

William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway Corridor Management Group, Inc.

Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Meeting commenced at 6:38 PM

Location: Westminster Woods (hybrid meeting with virtual and phone-in participants)

1. Introductions of Those Present

Al Abbatiello, Melissa Brunz, Luis Cabellero, Justin Fairman (FDOT), Joe McAnarney, Angie McFarland (phone), Mike Palozzi (FDOT - virtual), Christy Poston, and Lee Wedgewick III (virtual).

A quorum was achieved for voting.

2. Administrative

a. Secretary Appointment

Christy Poston was nominated and approved as Secretary. Approval confirmed with quorum, including Angie (phone). Motion was made by Joe with unanimous approval.

b. Annual Report

The Annual Report was reviewed. No substantive issues were raised. Motion to approve the Annual Report as written and authorize FDOT submission prior to the February 1 deadline was made by Joe with unanimous approval.

3. Committee Reports

a. Website

Melissa reported that the website is fully up to date with agendas and minutes through January. The 2026 work plan is posted. Once finalized, minutes from this meeting and the approved Annual Report will be added.

b. Facebook / Communications

Angie continues to post updates, including local events and development-related information. Coordination will continue between Angie and Melissa for content distribution.

c. Treasurer's Report

Current bank balance reported at \$18,147.50.

4. Project Ideas and Updates

a. FDOT - Landscape, Trees, and Wildflowers

- Joe and Al reported on a December 10 meeting in Lake City with FDOT representatives.
- Scenic Highway has concerns about utility companies cutting down trees in the protected areas.
- FDOT has approximately \$20 million allocated for landscape projects in District 2.
- A median tree replacement project (Roberts Road to Davis Pond Boulevard) is included in the FY 2029 work program. FDOT seemed open to extending limits to Julington Creek.
- Opportunities exist for early input on landscape design, including potential use of oak trees. Design work begins 18 months in advance.
- Wildflower planting has been delayed due to drought conditions. Justin reported that FDOT recommends waiting until spring or summer for planting to ensure successful establishment. Justin will follow up with more details on the planting.

b. Winter Bash Event

The table at the Winter Bash at Alpine Groves was successful.

- Six new members signed up.
- \$130 was collected.
- Master Gardener showed interest in volunteering.

c. Community Event Ideas

Ideas discussed included:

- Hosting or partnering on a square dance or similar community event.
- Using Facebook polls to gauge community interest.
- Partnering with churches or existing community events to minimize logistics.

d. Scout Program Sponsorships

Discussion focused on creating a William Bartram themed merit badge or award tied to conservation, gardening, and environmental education. Ideas included scavenger hunts, photography, and partnerships with master gardeners.

e. Joe's Recent Outreach

Joe reported attending a Land Acquisition and Management Program (LAMP) board meeting.

- LAMP is open to awarding bonus points to properties along designated scenic highways.
- Several properties along the corridor were identified as potential future opportunities.
- Property owners must initiate applications for LAMP consideration.
- Interest was shown at LAMP and St. Johns County to protect the Scenic Highway.

Joe reported meeting with Charles Tingley with the St. Augustine Historical Society.

- Charles had valuable information regarding William Bartram including letters from London, etc.

f. Advertising in The Creekline

Discussion held regarding:

- This meeting was advertised in The Creekline
- Possibility to purchase a quarter-page of The Creekline quarterly for advertisement or providing information on the history of the scenic highway. No decision was made.

g. Upcoming Presentations

- Joe will present a PowerPoint at Westminster Woods on January 26 at 3:30 pm.
- Joe is scheduled to present to the local Rotary Club on March 19.

h. Daily's Gas Station Proposal

FDOT clarified that as a nonprofit organization, the William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway Corridor Management Group, Inc. determines its own advocacy positions. FDOT does not direct day-to-day priorities. The group may professionally oppose developments that negatively impact scenic quality, including the proposed Daily's gas station, which currently requires a zoning change and has not begun construction.

i. Other

Banking and Financial Strategy

Discussion held regarding:

- Exploring local banks for community partnerships and volunteer engagement.
- Possible use of high-yield savings accounts or CDs.
Melissa and Angie will research options and report back.

Adopt-A-Highway Program

- Interest expressed by Pecan Craft Kitchen in adopting a highway segment.
- Discussion on recognizing existing Adopt-A-Highway participants and encouraging participation along the entire corridor.
- Consideration given to the Corridor Management Group adopting a segment directly.

5. FDOT / Florida Scenic Highways Program Updates

- Justin provided FDOT's Tentative Work Program Public Hearing Report for St. Johns County

- Florida Scenic Highways Program Annual Meeting scheduled for March 25 in Sebastian (hybrid option available).
- Mike will share a link to National Scenic Byways Foundation videos and resources.
- Mike will submit the approved Annual Report that is due February 1.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Next Meeting

February 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm (Motion made by A1 with unanimous approval).