

William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway  
Corridor Management Group

**Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 16, 2026, 6:30 PM**

1. **Introductions of those Present:** Al Abbatiello, Luis & Janet Caballero, Joe McAnarney, Angie McFarland, Justin Fairman - FDOT, Ken Steenson – Westminster, Master Gardeners Trinh Getz and Patty Plourde, (Mike Palozzi, Amy Roberson and Melissa Brunz by phone).
2. **Administrative**
  - a. Meeting Minutes for February and March 2026 were approved.
  - b. Treasurer’s Report of \$18,721.85 was approved.
3. **FDOT Conceptual Landscape Plans for SR13 Medians**
  - a. Joe attended an FDOT meeting in Lake City on April 6<sup>th</sup> to see conceptual landscape plans for **SR13 medians** from the Julington Creek Bridge south to Roberts Road, and he emailed news and images to Management Board members afterwards.
  - b. FDOT would like to **measure community support** for these plans and would welcome a review and letter from the Management Group.
  - c. **Following discussion here, Joe moved to have the Management Group send a letter of support for the conceptual plans.**
  - d. The motion was approved.
4. **Master Gardener Program – Funding Allowance**
  - a. Joe explained that the **Homegrown National Parks (HNP)** program wishes to partner with the Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway to complete numerous projects with new native and keystone plants along the Scenic Highway.
  - b. Many Master Gardeners have stepped forward to help in those projects and would select and order plants, but would need the Management Group to approve a funding allowance for purchasing those plants.
  - c. Joe moved that a **\$2,000 Funding Allowance** be approved, and the motion was seconded and approved.
  - d. Also discussed was the need for the Management Group to lead efforts to obtain grants and donations to fund future HNP projects.
5. **Membership**
  - a. Al will contact the previous members he has on his master list to ask that they renew their memberships.

## 6. Webpage

- a. Al had sent some possible programming information to Melissa, but it's not certain if this will be of use for updating our webpage.

## 7. Facebook

- a. Angie reports that we have **591 followers**. We should all visit this site frequently ourselves.
- b. Mike suggested that we post tonight's decision to approve \$2,000 for Master Gardener activities and also post that Joe attended the State Scenic Highway's Annual Meeting.
- c. Luis asked if we have a "Donate" button on the Facebook page, and Angie said that we do.

## 8. Master Gardener Program – Introductions and Updates

- a. Special guests **Ken Steenson, Trinh Getz, and Patty Plourde** introduced themselves and spoke.
  - i. **Ken** is a resident at Westminster Woods Senior Center and is the Chair of the Center's Resident Garden and Landscape Committee. He has been working with Trinh, Patty, and other master gardeners to develop plans for new and refreshed gardens on the Center's campus.
    1. Gardens would utilize native and keystone plants so as to be part of the Homegrown National Park Program.
  - ii. **Trinh and Patty** are part of the master gardener group that have been working with Ken. The group could also help plan additional projects along the Scenic Highway.
- b. Mike suggested that the County be aware of these Homegrown National Parks projects. They are positive efforts to support the Scenic Highway and the County.

## 9. Ringhaver Family Land Donation and The Northeast Florida Land Trust

- a. It is now public information that the **Ringhaver Family** has donated 1700 acres of undeveloped property to the Northeast Florida Land Trust.
- b. The property is along the Scenic Highway just south of the Shands Bridge and is to be held by the Trust in perpetuity as an undeveloped and natural area.
- c. This is fantastic news for the Bartram Scenic Highway as future development could have generated thousands of new cars and trucks along the highway.
- d. Joe attended the **Land Trust's Annual Meeting**, met Mr. and Mrs. Ringhaver, introduced himself as Chair of the Bartram Scenic Highway, and on behalf of the Scenic Highway Management Group, thanked them for their donation.

- e. Joe also was invited to attend the **monthly Land Trust Leadership Meeting** on April 13<sup>th</sup> and presented an overview of the Bartram Scenic Highway.
- f. The Land Trust likes the Bartram Scenic Highway and wants to continue to work with us to identify additional properties for possible acquisition by the Land Trust for preservation.

## 10. Upcoming Events

- a. **Bartram Frolic** in Palatka, April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Joe and Al will set up the Bartram Scenic Highway table, and likely Luis and Janet will be there too.
- b. **Bartram Living History Event** at Alpine Groves – May 2
  - i. The Scenic Highway will have a table at the event.
- c. Mike reminded us to take **pictures** of our attendance at these events and to forward those to Amy and him for inclusion in FSHP News Announcements.

## 11. Proposed Daily's Gas Station

- a. Joe and Luis attended a **Community Meeting** on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- b. An estimated 350 area residents also attended to listen to the Daily's presentation and to ask questions.
- c. Joe spoke, announced opposition to the project by the Scenic Highway, and asked several questions.
- d. Opposition to this project was very clear.
- e. Future public meetings at the County will be announced when scheduled.

## 12. Other Comments

- a. Janet will follow up with research about **historic structures** along the Scenic Highway. Several are listed, but locations and protections are questioned.
- b. Al indicated that he had contacted Operation Lifeline to find out about the status of renovation funding for the **Switzerland Community Center**. Funding is still pending in the State's 2026 Budget, and Al has sent an article to the Creekline with these updates.

## 13. Updates from Amy

- a. The **2026 State Scenic Highways Meeting** was held on March 24-26 in Sebastian and was well attended.
  - i. Amy will send out a summary of presentations.
- b. The **FSHP Newsletter** was sent out (Joe received this and forwarded to the Management Group).

#### **14. Updates from Justin**

- a. Justin explained that Julington Creek Plantation has a **maintenance agreement** with FDOT to maintain right-of-way landscaping and medians along the Scenic Highway from Race Track Road to Davis Pond Boulevard.
- b. Keeping the maintenance agreement in effect will be an important consideration for any inclusion of conceptual new landscape plans in FDOT funding plans.

#### **15. Updates from Mike**

- a. Everyone should keep track of their **volunteer hours**. This is important when reporting the value of efforts contributed to the FSHP program.
- b. Mike asked about **annual filings** and Angie reported that the Scenic Highway has filed its 2026 Annual Report with SUNBIZ as well as its IRS Tax Forms.
- c. Mike indicated that the **Management Plan** is older than 5 years and needs to be updated per State requirements.
  - i. Mike will start some of the updating, but the Management Group will need to be involved.

16. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**17. Next Meeting to be May 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joe McAnarney, Chair