

JAMES ISLAND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC 29412

May 9, 2024 5:00 PM

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

This meeting will be live streamed on the Town's website:

jamesislandsc.us

Public Comments need to be received via email by noon on Wednesday 5/8/2024 to kcrane@jamesislandsc.us

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- II. COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
- III. INTRODUCTIONS
- IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VI. STAFF COMMENTS
- VII. DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND VOTE OF PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR THE DILLS BLUFF SUBDIVISION, APP# SBDV-11-23-02617 (TMS #425-12-00-185)

Planning Commission will vote to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the preliminary plat of the proposed Dills Bluff Subdivision of 13 single-family lots.

- VIII. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE (ZLDR) INCLUDING:
 - a. <u>General Provisions, Grand Tree Definition (153.013)</u>: Changing definition of grand tree from 24" DBH to 18" DBH
 - b. <u>Subdivisions, Tree Preservation (153.309)</u>: Changing definition of grand tree from 24" DBH to 18" DBH
 - c. <u>Development Standards, Tree Protection (153.334)</u>: Changing definition of grand tree from 24" DBH to 18" DBH

Planning Commission will vote on a recommendation to Town Council.

- IX. VOTE FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR
- X. CHAIR'S COMMENTS
- XI. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS
- XII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: JUNE 13, 2024
- XIII. ADJOURN

The Planning Commission of the Town of James Island met on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:35 p.m. in person at the James Island Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC 29412.

<u>Commissioners present</u>: Patrick Broderick, Kelly Hall, Zennie Quinn, and Ed Steers, who presided as Chair. <u>Absent</u>: Deborah Bidwell (gave notice). A quorum was present to conduct business. <u>Also</u>, Kristen Crane, Planning Director, Flannery Wood, Planner II, Niki Grimball, Town Administrator, Mayor Brook Lyon, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk and Secretary to the Planning Commission.

<u>Call to Order</u>: Commissioner Steers called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

<u>Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act</u>: Commissioner Steers announced that this meeting was duly noticed in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act. This meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's website with notification provided to the public.

<u>Introductions:</u> Commissioner Steers introduced the members of the Planning Commission and welcomed new members Kelly Hall and Patrick Broderick at their first meeting; Town staff and Mayor Lyon.

<u>Approval of September 14, 2023 Minutes</u>: The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Steers; second by Commissioner Quinn. Passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None.

Staff Comments: None.

Commissioner Quinn announced that Town Administrator, Niki Grimball would present the Proposed Amendments to the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR) that includes:

a. Proposed amendments to include changes to allow for variances and appeals of administrative decisions concerning the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the Town Building Regulations Ordinance to be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Ms. Grimball announced that the Town is in the process of taking steps to bring its building services inhouse. She said rather than form a new Board, the delegation of those duties would be transferred to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). A general overview of Chapter 153.027 which explains the process was shared with the Planning Commission informing them that the Board of Zoning Appeals would be the decision making authority for variances, including those described in Section 151-55 of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance; adjustments as described in Section 150-14 of the Town's Building Regulations Ordinance; and appeals of administrative decisions on:

- a. Zoning-related matters as described in the chapter
- b. Floodplain regulations related matters as described in Chapter 151 of the Code of Ordinances; and
- c. Building regulations-related matters as described in Chapter 150 of the Code of Ordinances

Commissioner Quinn moved to approve the recommendations as provided by staff; Commissioner Steers seconded. Commissioner Broderick spoke favorably about these services being done in-house to benefit the Town. Ms. Grimball said we hope to have these services begin on January 1st and we are in the process of interviewing candidates for the Building Official position. Commissioner Steers thanked Ms. Grimball for her knowledge and expertise and for her presentation to the Planning Commission. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously. Town Council will hold a public hearing and first reading at its December 21st meeting and the second reading on January 18, 2024.

Potential Regular Meeting Time Change: Planning Director, Kristen Crane, presented a request to change the meeting time of the Planning Commission meeting from 6:35 p.m. to an earlier time if that is the desire of the Board. She stated that the time was previously held at 6:00 p.m. and changed by the former Land Use Liaison to 6:35 p.m. She also informed the Commission that the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting time was changed to 5:00 p.m. and is working well for the members and staff. Discussion was held among the members. Mayor Lyon, the new Land Use Liaison, stated her schedule is flexible with whatever time the Commission decides. There was agreement among the members that the meeting time be changed to 5:00 p.m. (in-line with the BZA meeting). A motion to change the time of the Planning Commission meeting to 5:00 p.m. was made by Commissioner Quinn, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and passed unanimously.

Chair's Comments: None.

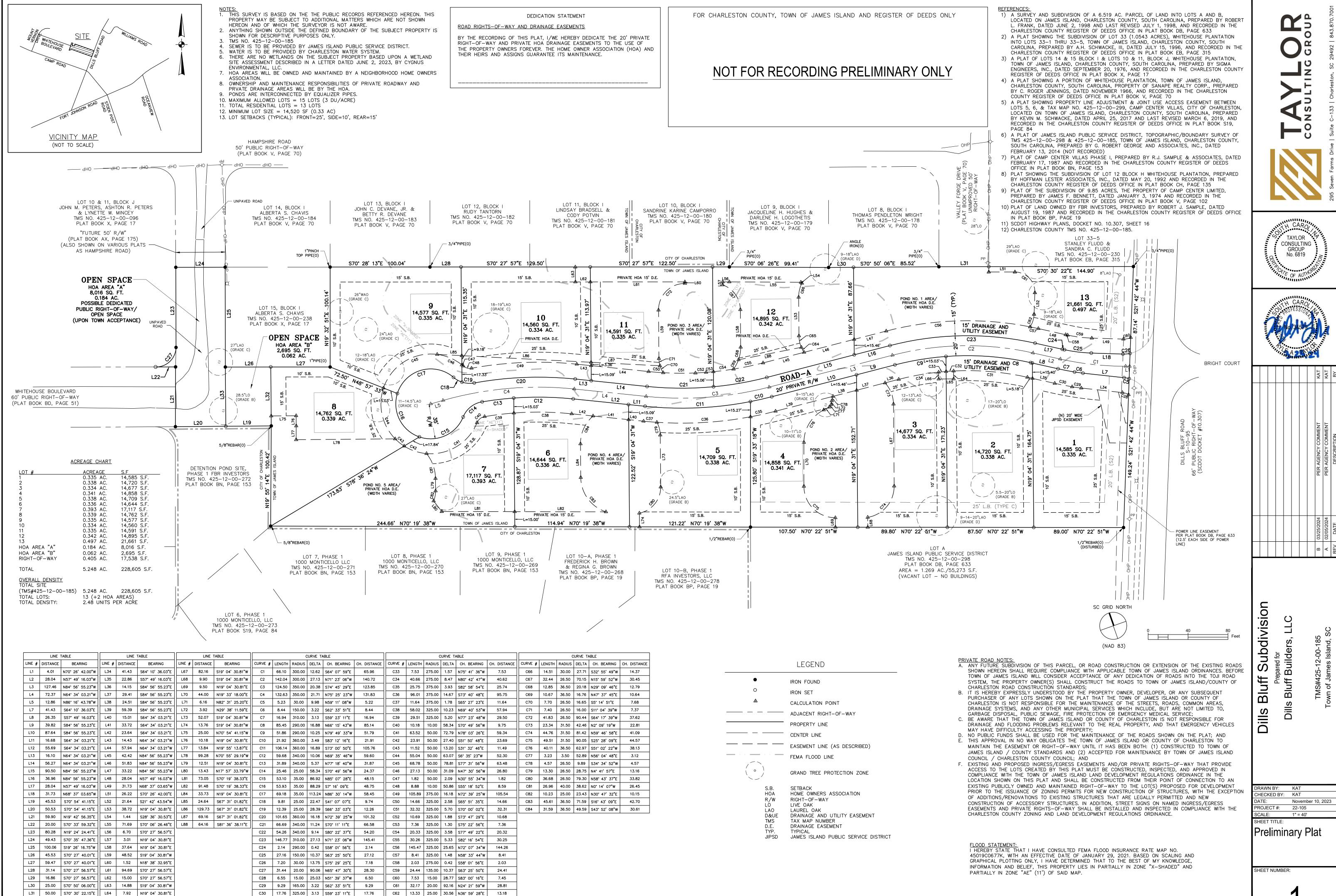
Commissioners Comments: None.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: January 11, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk and Secretary to the Planning Commission



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74.28

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App #SBDV-11-23-02617 - Lands of the James Island Public Service District

Dills Bluff Road

Town of James Island Lots: 13

Applicant: Taylor Consulting Group, LLC Acres: 5.25

TMS #425-12-00-185

The purpose of this Preliminary Plat is for future conveyance of new lots.

This application was reviewed by the Planning, Public Works, and Stormwater Departments of the Town of James Island and Charleston County, and the following was determined:

- The applicant is requesting PRELIMINARY approval of this proposed subdivision of 13 lots.
- This preliminary plat meets the zoning requirements of the RSL zoning district in The Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance.
- The proposed subdivision is to be served with public water (Charleston Water System) and public sewer (James Island Public Service District).
- This proposed preliminary plat is conceptual and the developer has no guarantee concerning the final number of lots. Access to lots is proposed as a 20' private Right-of-Way.
- Planning, Public Works, and Stormwater recommend PRELIMINARY APPROVAL with the following stipulations and contingencies:

Stipulations:

- 1. Approval of this plan in no way obligates the Town of James Island to maintain any of the proposed right-of-ways, ingress-egress easements, and/or drainage systems.
- 2. The private HOA areas shall be dedicated to a legally recognized entity. Private HOA areas shall not be dedicated to the public. Further, the Town of James Island, nor Charleston County is obligated or responsible for the private HOA areas maintenance. The dedication to an entity will be reviewed and approved by the Town's legal department prior to recording of a Final Plat.

Prior to Final Approval, the following contingencies must be met:

- 1. The Right-of-Way must be named. All proposed road names must be approved by the Charleston County 9-1-1 Center. To propose a new road name, fill out the "Reserve Street Name" application.
- 2. Dedication Statement signed by entity who will own and maintain the road.

- 3. Lots must comply with the provisions of the Town of James Island's Subdivision Regulations pertaining to final plats and final approval.
- 4. Lots must comply with the Town of James Island's Zoning and Land Development Regulations.
- 5. This approval in no way constitutes approval for any individual lot in this subdivision.
- 6. Provide DHEC Permit to Operate for Water and Sewer
- 7. Public water and sewer taps are to be installed to each lot prior to the recording of a final plat.
- 8. Development of each lot must comply with the ordinances in effect at the time application is made.
- 9. All infrastructure is to be installed prior to recording a final plat.
- 10. Homeowners Association document should include language that states the HOA takes full responsibility for maintenance of the 20' Private ROW, Open Space "A", Open Space "B", Pond No. 1, Pond No. 2, Pond No. 3, Pond No. 4, Pond No. 5, and any other dedicated areas labeled on plat.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 153.013 DEFINITIONS.

GRAND TREE. All species of tree measuring <u>24 18</u> inches or greater diameter breast height (DBH) except pine and sweet gum.

SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

§ 153.309 TREE PRESERVATION; GRAND TREES.

(A) *Definition*. For this and all sections regarding the protection of *GRAND TREES*, the meaning shall be for all trees except pine and sweet gum having a diameter at breast height of <u>24 18</u> inches or greater.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

§ 153.334 TREE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION.

GRAND TREE. Any species of tree measuring 24 18 inches or greater diameter breast height (DBH) except pine and sweet gum. All **GRAND TREES** are prohibited from removal unless a grand tree removal permit is issued.

TREE ORDINANCES from NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES

Town of James Island

- All species of tree measuring 24" or greater diameter breast height except and sweet gum is a grand tree. Grand tree removal permits may be approved if trees are diseased, dead, dying or pose a safety hazard to nearby buildings or pedestrian or vehicular traffic (as determined by the ZA or a qualified arborist; or the approval has been approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Any tree eight inches (8") or greater D.B.H., on a parcel prior to development and all trees within required buffers or required landscape areas are protected trees. Protected trees may be removed if the location and configuration of trees create an unreasonable burden on the use of the parcel. (Single-family detached are exempt)
- All invasive tree species as referred by Clemson Extension and the South Carolina Pest Plant Council are exempt from grand and protected tree sections.
- Removal of three or more limbs with an individual diameter of six inches or greater, or removal of more than 25% of the canopy of a grand tree requires a zoning permit.

City of Charleston

- Any tree twenty-four inches (24") or greater in diameter at 4.5' above the grade (D.B.H.) excluding pine trees or sweet gums is a grand tree.
- Any tree eight inches (8") or greater D.B.H., except multi-stem crepe myrtles is a protected tree.
- Protected and Grand Trees that are determined to be hazardous, diseased, injured to the extent it is irreparably damaged or causing damage to a habitable building where it cannot be remedied without removing the tree will be approved for removal.
- A permit is not required to prune a Grand or Protected tree. However, pruning shall be done by a qualified tree service and performed using the National Arborist Association's Pruning Standards for Shade Trees.
- Grand Trees must maintain a minimum protective zone from any land disturbance activity, all proposed impervious surfaces, building materials, fill, construction debris, vehicles and heavy machinery during construction activities. The protective zone must be barricaded with a physical structure not less than 4' in height. A suitable protective barrier shall be composed of wood or other durable material which insures protection of grand trees during development.
- The minimum clearance from grand trees during development is based on the following formula: A 24" D.B.H. tree requires a minimum clearance of 12' from the base of the tree, plus an additional one foot (1') of clearance for every three D.B.H. inches (3") in excess of twenty-four (24) (i.e., a tree having a D.B.H. of thirty-six inches (36") must have a minimum clearance of sixteen feet (16') between its base and any impervious surface).

Town of Summerville

- All trees (all species) eight inches in diameter at breast height (DBH), including dead trees, require a permit to be removed. Permits for removal of trees for new construction projects must be submitted with the building permit and will be reviewed as part of site plan review.
- All trees 16 inches or greater must be approved by the Town's Tree Protection Board (TPB).
- Criteria for Removal-Trees are typically approved for removal if they meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Diseased, dead, or dying
 - o Pose a safety hazard to nearby buildings, utility lines, or pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
 - o Prevent essential grade or all reasonable utility installations.
 - Prevent all reasonable site configurations.
 - Removal of trees is the only reasonable means by which: Building, Health, Public Safety,
 Subdivision, Zoning, or other Town requirements can be met.
 - Located in the building footprint and up to ten feet around the perimeter of the construction site of an approved building and related driveway parking area where every measure has been explored to preserve existing trees has failed.
 - The lot is of such density with existing trees that the removal of certain protected trees is considered beneficial.

City of Folly Beach

 Protected trees may not be removed except when a) certified as severely diseased, high risk, or dying; b) in the footprint of a proposed single-family dwelling and/or driveway; or c) certified as hazardous.

TABLE OF PROTECTED TREES			
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	MINIMUM SIZE (inches) (1)	
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia	12 (DBH)	
Quercus phellos	Willow Oak	12 (DBH)	
Magnolia virginiana	Sweet Bay Magnolia	12 (DBH)	
Quercus virginiana	Live Oak	6 (DBH)	
Quercus launfolia	Laurel Oak	12 (DBH)	
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	12 (DBH)	
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern Red Cedar	12 (DBH)	
Sabal palmetto	Cabbage Palm or Sabal Palm (Palmetto)	12 (DBH)	
Ilex opaca	American Holly	12 (DBH)	
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	12 (DBH)	
NOTES: (1) DBH = Diameter	at breast height measured 4.5 feet above grade.		

Non protected trees can be removed for any reason, but still require mitigation.

- All healthy protected trees and non-protected trees larger than 12" DBH must be replaced or payment received in lieu of replacement according to tree replacement calculator.
- Certified diseased or dying trees do not have to be replaced.

18" or less DBH = equivalent amount of trunk diameter 19" to 24" DBH = 1.5 times the diameter

25" or more = 2 times the diameter

EXAMPLE See the table below for an example of the calculation for removing the following trees:

8" live oak 14" sabal palm 20" sabal palm 22" willow oak 25" pine 28" pine

Trees	Inches	Multiply by	Total
Live oaks between 6" and 12"	8	x 1 =	8
All trees between 13" and 18"	14	x 1 =	14
All trees between 19" and 24"	42	x 1.5 =	63
All trees 25" or more	53	x 2 =	106
Total of above four lines			191

Town of Mount Pleasant:

- Residential properties, all trees 16" and greater are protected and require permit with exception
 of Bradford Pear, Camphor, Chinaberry, Chinese Tallow (popcorn tree), Callary Pear varieties,
 Mimosa, Pines, River Birch, Sweet Gum, and White Poplar. Trees located within special buffer
 areas, however, may still be protected regardless of size or species.
- Except for Pine a permit is required to remove any tree or limb over 8" in diameter. The city will require a certified arborist letter to perform larger cuts or removals.
- Have other designations as well like a historic tree- Any tree with diameter breast height (DBH) of 24 inches or larger
- Non-exempt tree species (with the exception of live oak trees) containing three or more separate trunks shall be considered a significant tree.
- Live Oak tree species with a DBH of 24 inches or larger are considered HISTORIC TREES under all circumstances.

Charleston County:

- Single-family residential, all trees 24" and greater require permit with exception of Pines and American sweetgums.
- Multi-Family residential, all trees 8" and greater are protected in effort to retain a buffer.
- Pruning of 3 or more limbs with an individual diameter of 6" or greater and excessive pruning or thinning that exceeds more than 25% of the leaf surface requires a Zoning Permit.

Isle of Palms:

- Except for Pine a permit is required to remove any tree or limb over 8" in diameter. The city will require a certified arborist letter to perform larger cuts or removals.
- Criteria for removal:
 - a dead or diseased tree constitutes a hazard to life and/or property, or harbors insects or disease which constitutes a substantial threat to other trees.
 - When a tree is causing structural damage to an enclosed area of the primary building, including porches, or any other permanent accessory structure that would require a building permit, and the damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree,
 - When a certified arborist determines in writing that a tree poses a clear and imminent threat of structural damage to an enclosed area of the primary building, including porches, or any other permanent accessory structure that would require a building permit, and the threat of damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree.
 - When a tree is causing structural damage to a septic tank system, and the damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree, the zoning administrator may determine that the tree is hazardous and issue a permit for its removal.
 - When a certified arborist determines in writing that a tree poses a clear and imminent threat of structural damage to a septic tank system, and the threat of damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree, the zoning administrator may determine that the tree is hazardous and issue a permit for its removal.
- Also has designations for other trees like historic trees.

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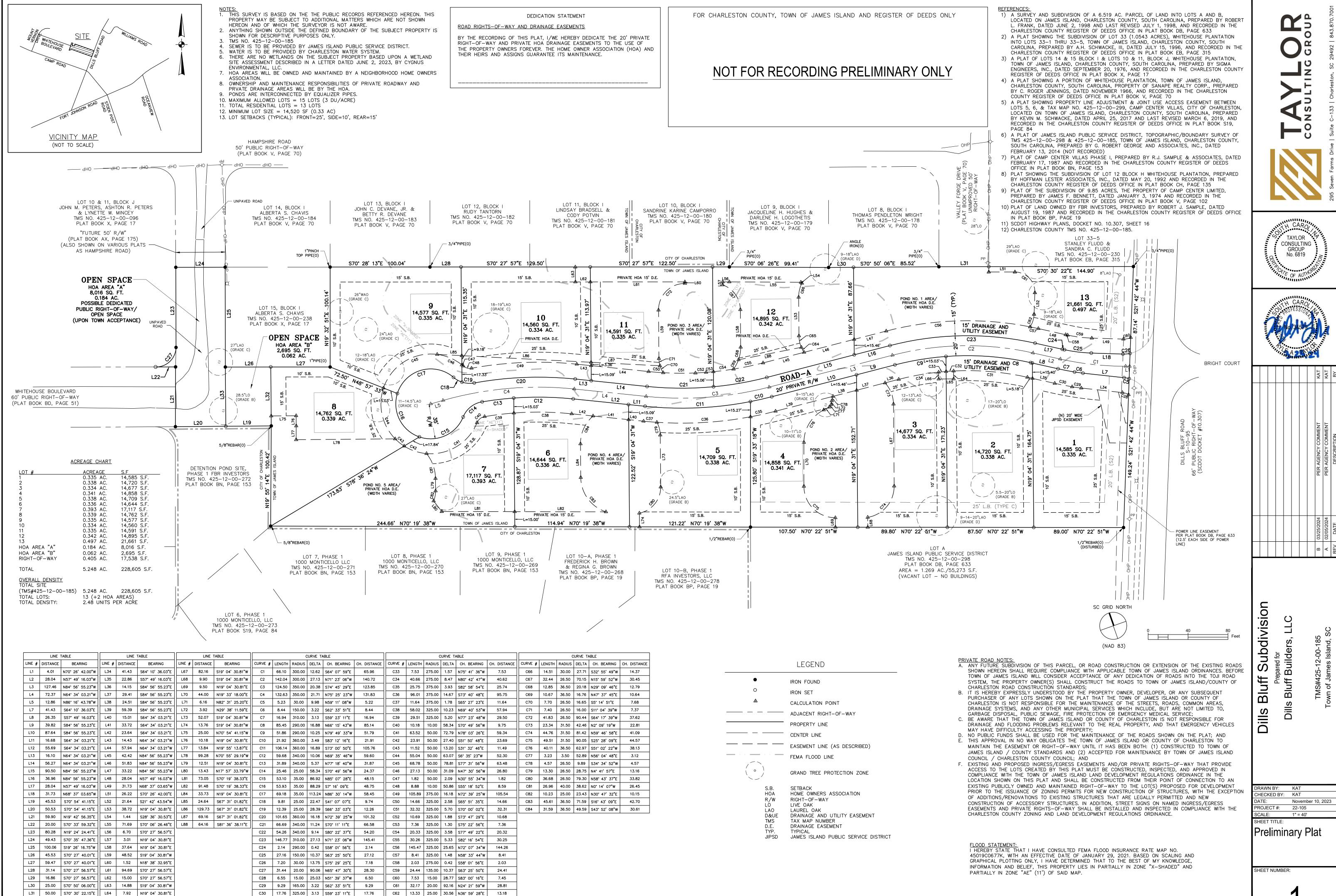
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Applicant: Taylor Consulting Group, LLC Acres: 5.25

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

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DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

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TREE ORDINANCES from NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES

Town of James Island

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- Grand Trees must maintain a minimum protective zone from any land disturbance activity, all proposed impervious surfaces, building materials, fill, construction debris, vehicles and heavy machinery during construction activities. The protective zone must be barricaded with a physical structure not less than 4' in height. A suitable protective barrier shall be composed of wood or other durable material which insures protection of grand trees during development.
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Town of Summerville

- All trees (all species) eight inches in diameter at breast height (DBH), including dead trees, require a permit to be removed. Permits for removal of trees for new construction projects must be submitted with the building permit and will be reviewed as part of site plan review.
- All trees 16 inches or greater must be approved by the Town's Tree Protection Board (TPB).
- Criteria for Removal-Trees are typically approved for removal if they meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Diseased, dead, or dying
 - o Pose a safety hazard to nearby buildings, utility lines, or pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
 - o Prevent essential grade or all reasonable utility installations.
 - Prevent all reasonable site configurations.
 - Removal of trees is the only reasonable means by which: Building, Health, Public Safety,
 Subdivision, Zoning, or other Town requirements can be met.
 - Located in the building footprint and up to ten feet around the perimeter of the construction site of an approved building and related driveway parking area where every measure has been explored to preserve existing trees has failed.
 - The lot is of such density with existing trees that the removal of certain protected trees is considered beneficial.

City of Folly Beach

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TABLE OF PROTECTED TREES			
SPECIES	COMMON NAME	MINIMUM SIZE (inches) (1)	
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia	12 (DBH)	
Quercus phellos	Willow Oak	12 (DBH)	
Magnolia virginiana	Sweet Bay Magnolia	12 (DBH)	
Quercus virginiana	Live Oak	6 (DBH)	
Quercus launfolia	Laurel Oak	12 (DBH)	
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	12 (DBH)	
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern Red Cedar	12 (DBH)	
Sabal palmetto	Cabbage Palm or Sabal Palm (Palmetto)	12 (DBH)	
Ilex opaca	American Holly	12 (DBH)	
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	12 (DBH)	
NOTES: (1) DBH = Diameter	at breast height measured 4.5 feet above grade.		

Non protected trees can be removed for any reason, but still require mitigation.

- All healthy protected trees and non-protected trees larger than 12" DBH must be replaced or payment received in lieu of replacement according to tree replacement calculator.
- Certified diseased or dying trees do not have to be replaced.

18" or less DBH = equivalent amount of trunk diameter 19" to 24" DBH = 1.5 times the diameter

25" or more = 2 times the diameter

EXAMPLE See the table below for an example of the calculation for removing the following trees:

8" live oak 14" sabal palm 20" sabal palm 22" willow oak 25" pine 28" pine

Trees	Inches	Multiply by	Total
Live oaks between 6" and 12"	8	x 1 =	8
All trees between 13" and 18"	14	x 1 =	14
All trees between 19" and 24"	42	x 1.5 =	63
All trees 25" or more	53	x 2 =	106
Total of above four lines			191

Town of Mount Pleasant:

- Residential properties, all trees 16" and greater are protected and require permit with exception
 of Bradford Pear, Camphor, Chinaberry, Chinese Tallow (popcorn tree), Callary Pear varieties,
 Mimosa, Pines, River Birch, Sweet Gum, and White Poplar. Trees located within special buffer
 areas, however, may still be protected regardless of size or species.
- Except for Pine a permit is required to remove any tree or limb over 8" in diameter. The city will require a certified arborist letter to perform larger cuts or removals.
- Have other designations as well like a historic tree- Any tree with diameter breast height (DBH) of 24 inches or larger
- Non-exempt tree species (with the exception of live oak trees) containing three or more separate trunks shall be considered a significant tree.
- Live Oak tree species with a DBH of 24 inches or larger are considered HISTORIC TREES under all circumstances.

Charleston County:

- Single-family residential, all trees 24" and greater require permit with exception of Pines and American sweetgums.
- Multi-Family residential, all trees 8" and greater are protected in effort to retain a buffer.
- Pruning of 3 or more limbs with an individual diameter of 6" or greater and excessive pruning or thinning that exceeds more than 25% of the leaf surface requires a Zoning Permit.

Isle of Palms:

- Except for Pine a permit is required to remove any tree or limb over 8" in diameter. The city will require a certified arborist letter to perform larger cuts or removals.
- Criteria for removal:
 - a dead or diseased tree constitutes a hazard to life and/or property, or harbors insects or disease which constitutes a substantial threat to other trees.
 - When a tree is causing structural damage to an enclosed area of the primary building, including porches, or any other permanent accessory structure that would require a building permit, and the damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree,
 - When a certified arborist determines in writing that a tree poses a clear and imminent threat of structural damage to an enclosed area of the primary building, including porches, or any other permanent accessory structure that would require a building permit, and the threat of damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree.
 - When a tree is causing structural damage to a septic tank system, and the damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree, the zoning administrator may determine that the tree is hazardous and issue a permit for its removal.
 - When a certified arborist determines in writing that a tree poses a clear and imminent threat of structural damage to a septic tank system, and the threat of damage cannot be remedied without removing the tree, the zoning administrator may determine that the tree is hazardous and issue a permit for its removal.
- Also has designations for other trees like historic trees.