

Glennstone, April 11, 2022
Board Meeting Agenda
6 pm by Zoom

AGENDA

1. Board Positions Confirmed
2. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes
3. Manager's Report
 - Financials/Budget
 - Collections/Foreclosures
 - Pond Remediation
4. Set Community Meeting date?
5. Contact to work with the Ellerbe Creek Watershed?
6. Other Community Socials?
7. Grass cutting for the 5 common fields?

From: Chris Dreps <chris@ellerbecreek.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 1:02 PM
To: 'Tom Whisnant' <tom@tracmanagement.com>
Cc: 'Donna Myers' <donna@ellerbecreek.org>; 'L. A. Davis-Durante' <la@ellerbecreek.org>; 'Rickie White' <rickie@ellerbecreek.org>
Subject: RE: ECWA Community Engagement with Glennstone Neighborhood

Hi, Tom,

Attached is a message for the Glennstone Neighborhood Association. I would appreciate it if you can forward this on and copy us if there is someone else who should be getting this. As the owner of the adjacent Glennstone Nature Preserve, we want the neighborhood to know about this important issue that might create a very large nature preserve nearby on the City-owned Heron Rookery.

In January 2022 the NC Natural Heritage Program and Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association proposed that the City of Durham dedicate about 280 acres of City-owned bottomlands, to the south and west of Glennstone in the lower Ellerbe Creek valley. The area has been designated a Natural Heritage Area, and it contains the regionally important [Heron Rookery shown in this beautiful video](#).

Long story short, Durham staff did a good job in 2022 of getting review from the various departments, and Durham's Real Estate staff communicated very well with ECWA and the NC Natural Heritage Program through the process. After 6 months of review, City Council was poised to hear a staff report on Dec. 8, 2022. Our understanding at that time was that there was broad support on Council for this. Unfortunately, partially due to that staffer leaving the City to work for County economic development, there was a delay. We have been expecting to hear back from staff since that time, and we keep getting told that there is still an internal review going on and they'll get back to us. One issue they're trying to figure out is a planned road, but that project is not eminent (not on DOT's 5-year plan), and Natural Heritage staff have made it clear to City staff that the road and rookery can coexist with the proper buffer.

So, we have decided to start applying some public pressure to get a City Council vote. Please see the attached Call to Action. We let City staff know that we plan to start reaching out to our network.

Is this something Glennstone would want to support? I can share more with you, do a tour of the Heron Rookery with some neighbors, or come to a meeting if that is helpful.

Yours,

Chris Dreps (he/him)
Land Protection Director
Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association

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