

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

January 23, 2019

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Town of Bluffton Acquires 44 Acres from Palmetto Bluff in New Riverside

The Town of Bluffton closed Monday, December 31, 2018, on the purchase of a 37-acre parcel located at 200 New Riverside Road. This property, commonly referred to as the “New Riverside Barn Property” includes the 2,700 square-foot iconic barn structure which is visible from the highway. The sales agreement also included the donation of a seven-acre parcel located at the southeastern intersection of South Carolina Highways 46 and 170, made possible as a result of a successful strategic partnership with Palmetto Bluff. These properties are expected to be master planned for use as civic space.

“It’s important to create community open space in this section of Bluffton,” Town Manager Marc Orlando, said. “This acquisition further advances our wonderful relationship and partnership with Palmetto Bluff.”

Dallas Wood, the chief operating officer for the Palmetto Bluff Company, said company representatives sought a partnership with the Town of Bluffton in this transaction so this parcel of land will be utilized as open space for the greater Bluffton community.

“We are passionate about conservation and look to the Town of Bluffton to help us realize our vision for these 44 acres.” Wood said. “Whether it is a park or open space, we are pleased this land will continue to benefit the Town’s residents for many years while also conserving open space in one of Bluffton’s fastest growing areas.”

Comments from Mayor and Town Council:

Mayor Lisa Sulka said this is the first public space in Bluffton's most western boundaries and this purchase represents Council's priority to provide open space and parks for all its residents.

"The New Riverside Barn has the potential to become a Bluffton icon. The barn is the first Bluffton asset you see when coming east from Jasper County or the Savannah area. The rustic barn and its surrounding acreage offers our town a wonderful opportunity to provide a public area for gatherings, events and festivals. Town leaders agree the return on investment for open space is priceless for it is crucial to our community's quality of life."

Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer said this purchase was important due to Bluffton's growth in that area.

"I am ecstatic about this purchase, most importantly for our residents who live in proximity to this property. Most of Town-owned properties are centered in or adjacent to the Historic District. While those parks and spaces have added to the success of the Town, it is important to spread that success and amenities to other parts of Bluffton. This property is in the center of Bluffton's growing neighborhoods and I am 100% sure this property will become a centerpiece of many activities."

Councilmember Fred Hamilton said this purchase was a perfect opportunity for the Town of Bluffton.

"This purchase was a no-brainer. It is a beautiful property we were able to buy for a good price. It provides a chance to bring a recreation area to the newest and fastest growing communities of Bluffton in the New Riverside area. This space is a great way for neighbors to meet neighbors and I look forward to the ways the Town and its residents will use this land to bring us together as a community."

Councilmember Dan Wood said he is a big believer in parks and their role is paramount in Bluffton.

"You can't have a great community without great parks and open space," Wood said. "Parks are a fundamental component to the success of any town or city. When you see all the young families embrace the parks the town already has, it is proof they are key to our town's appeal. The New Riverside property gives us another tremendous opportunity to add to our residents' quality of life."

Councilmember Harry Lutz said he believes the new park will pull neighbors and the community closer together.

"This purchase is aligned with the Council's priority of preserving Bluffton's culture and maintaining a sense of community. I'm looking forward to the planning process of how this facility and land will be used. Whether it's sports fields, a passive park, a venue for outside

movies, entertainment, parties or weddings, I believe this space will be a special place where neighbors connect with each other and memories will be made for many years to come.”

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