

Accreted land report may be faulty

BY ALI AKHYARI

Recently, a report regarding illegal cutting in the Town's environmentally protected recreation and conservation district was released which resulted in no firm conclusions of guilt. Now, the accuracy of that very report has been called into question by some who were included in that report.

The report was the result of an "administrative inquiry" by Michael Anderson of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. In that report, Anderson states that Arborscape Tree Preservation owner, David Christmas, told him that Morton Needle asked Arborscape to cut trees in an illegal manner. The report reads:

"Christmās went on to state that one of the residents who contracted with his company, Morton Needle...asked that his trees be cut lower than the five feet mandated by the town ordinance, to which Christmas stated that he would not."

The Needles adamantly deny that they asked Arborscape to do any such thing and that they would never do anything so inappropriate. Furthermore, Christmas says that Needle never made such a request and that he never told

investigators that Needle asked for the trees to be cut in an illegal manner. He adds that "preservation" is in his company name and he is dedicated to preserving trees whenever possible.

Furthermore, Anderson's report is a little misleading in at least one other place. It reads, "Mr. [Ron] Coish stated that approximately two years ago, he was approached by Gerald Kaynard about cutting down trees in the recreation and conservation area. Mr. Coish further stated that he refused to do so, citing the town ordinance governing trees in the recreation and conservation area."

Because the entire report deals with the illegal cutting of trees, this statement very much suggests that Coish was refusing to do something illegal. The truth is that Coish only pointed out a technicality to Kaynard. Although the Island Eye attempted to contact Coish he was, unfortunately, unavailable to clear up the statement before the original article which ran in our last issue. Coish later stated that Kaynard had contracted him to do work on Kaynard's personal residence on Sullivan's Island. While working on that

house, Kaynard simply asked him if he could do tree trimming for him as well. Coish told Kaynard that the first step was to get a permit. That was the entire conversation according to Coish, who went on to say that Kaynard made no inappropriate suggestion.

While the Coish statement is technically true and the confusion can be blamed on a poorly phrased sentence, the Needle/Arborscape claims stand in undeniable contrast to what the report says.

A phone message left for Inspector Anderson was not returned. However, Major J. Clark, Public Information Officer for the Sheriff's Office, did

speak out on his behalf. Clark pointed out that while Anderson's report was an inter-governmental "memo" and not an official report, the contents are as accurate as an official report would be. Although Anderson was not able to offer an explanation, the Sheriff's Office statement is that the report is correct and the contents are accurate. There was no statement from Major Clark that the matter would be investigated and he went on to say that questions regarding the matter should be directed to the Town of Sullivan's Island. The Town had not replied to an e-mail on the matter by our publication deadline.

BARK! Ethereal and endearing paintings

BY JULIE SWEAT

Madeline Dukes latest body of work featuring trees, cold noses and warm hearts will open at Sandpiper Gallery, 2019C Middle Street, Sullivan's Island on Saturday August 9. The opening reception for this solo show will be held from 5:30 to 8pm. BARK! will feature depictions of ethereal trees in the coastal setting of the South Carolina Lowcountry, as well as paintings created as a tribute to man's best friend. This series of personified, dreamlike trees and endearing canines implore the viewer to enter the paintings and awaken their own memories, making the experience very personal as their own recollections

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