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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

MARVIN W. BINGHAM, JR., P.A.

Attorney at Law

☐ 386-462-5120 ☐

April 10, 2007

Department of State
Division of Corporations
Corporate Filings
P.O. Box 6327
Tallahassee, FL 32314

RE: Articles of Incorporation - Hermitage of Columbia County Homeowners
Association, Inc.

Dear Department of State:

Enclosed please find our check in the amount of \$96.75, which represents the filing fee for the enclosed original Articles of Incorporation, which is a nine (9) page document and the original Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Hermitage, Columbia County, Florida, which consists of seventeen (17) pages.

We have also enclosed a copy of each of the above named documents for return, once they have been certified by the State of Florida. Also enclosed is a stamped, addressed return envelope for your use.

Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents.

Sincerely,

MARVIN W. BINGHAM, JR., P.A.


Nancy A. Croce, Legal Assistant

/nac

Enclosures as noted herein.

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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
HERMITAGE OF COLUMBIA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. and
ACCEPTANCE OF RESIDENT AGENT**

The undersigned, for the purpose of forming a Corporation Not For Profit under Florida Statutes Chapter 617, does hereby make and adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

**ARTICLE I
NAME & ADDRESS**

The name of the corporation shall be: **Hermitage of Columbia County Homeowners Association, Inc.** (hereinafter the "Association").

The principal place of business of this corporation will be 20638 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, Florida 32615.

**ARTICLE II
TERM OF EXISTENCE**

The Association shall exist perpetually. Corporate existence of the Association shall commence upon the filing of these Articles with the Department of State of the State of Florida.

**ARTICLE III
DEFINITIONS**

The following words when used in these Articles of Incorporation (unless the context shall prohibit), shall have the following meanings.

(a) Association: "Association" shall mean and refer to HERMITAGE OF COLUMBIA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC, a Florida corporation not for profit, its successors and assigns. This Declaration is that Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions to which the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association make reference.

(b) Board: "The Board" shall mean and refer to the Board of Directors for HERMITAGE OF COLUMBIA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(c) "Declaration" shall mean and refer to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for Hermitage, a rural agricultural subdivision, Columbia County, Florida executed on April 9, 2007 and recorded in the Public Records of Columbia County, Florida and as amended from time to time.

(d) Developer: "Developer" shall mean and refer to MARK P. SULLIVAN and NANCY J. SULLIVAN, their successors and assigns.

(e) District: "District" shall mean the Suwannee River Water Management District, its successors or assigns.

(f) Drainage easements: Features or facilities collectively termed "drainage easements" refer to those surface water and stormwater management system components located in the Property, as shown on the plat, site plans or drawings, including, without limitation, ditches, swales, basins, and culverts; and over which every Member of the Association shall have a non-exclusive right and easement for surface water and stormwater management and drainage purposes for the benefit of all the Lots in the Property.

(g) Lot: "Lot" shall mean and refer to a platted lot as shown on the plat of HERMITAGE, a platted subdivision located in Columbia County, Florida.

(h) Member: "Member" shall mean and refer to each Owner who is a member of the Association.

(i) Owner: "Owner" shall mean and refer to the record fee simple title holder to each Lot included in the Subdivision, whether one or more persons or entities, including the Developer; but notwithstanding any applicable theory of mortgages, "Owner" shall not mean or refer to any mortgagee unless and until such mortgagee has acquired title pursuant to a foreclosure proceeding or a conveyance in lieu of foreclosure. Every Owner shall be treated for all purposes as a single Owner of their Lot, irrespective of whether such ownership is joint, tenancy in common, or tenancy by entirety. In the event any life estate is created with respect to any Lot in the Subdivision, the Owner of the life estate shall be deemed to be the Owner for purposes of this definition for so long as the life estate shall exist.

(j) "Property" or "Subdivision": "Property" or "Subdivision" shall mean and refer to all the platted Lots, drainage easements, and easements for Right of Way, and utility easements as shown on the plat of HERMITAGE, together with such additional property as may be annexed thereto as hereinafter provided.

(k) Right of Way: "Right of Way" shall mean and refer to the private access road and its appurtenant features and entranceway, including all improvements constructed within the right of way of U. S. Highway 441 for the benefit of the Lot owners, as shown on the plat for the Property over which every Member of the Association shall have a non-exclusive right, and easement of use and enjoyment for ingress, egress for the benefit of all the Lots.

(l) "Surface water and Stormwater Management System" means a system which is designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges which are necessitated by rainfall events, incorporating methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, over drainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect the quantity and quality of discharges.

ARTICLE IV
PURPOSE AND POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association is organized for the several purposes of enforcing the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for HERMITAGE, Columbia County, Florida, (hereinafter "the Declaration"); for adopting and promulgating rules and regulations pertaining to the maintenance, management, operation, care, preservation and architectural control of the Lots, drainage easements, and Right of Way in HERMITAGE and to promote the health, safety and welfare of the Owners. Pursuant to those purposes the Association shall have the following powers:

(a) To exercise all of the powers and privileges and to perform all of the duties and obligations of the Association as set forth in that certain Declaration applicable to the Property and recorded or to be recorded in the Public Records of Columbia County, Florida, and as the same may be amended from time to time as therein provided, said Declaration being incorporated herein as if set forth at length;

(b) To fix, levy, collect, and enforce payment by all lawful means all charges or assessments pursuant to the terms of the Declaration, to pay all expenses in connection therewith and all office and other expenses incident to the conduct of the business of the Association;

(c) To acquire, own, hold, improve, build upon, operate, maintain, sell, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of real or personal property in connection with the affairs of the Association;

(d) To operate, maintain and manage the surface water or stormwater management system in a manner consistent with Suwannee River Water Management District ("District") Permit No.ERP06-385 and applicable District rules, and shall assist in the enforcement of the Declaration which relate to the surface water or stormwater management system;

(e) To borrow money if needed to carry out the purpose and works of the Association;

(f) To use and expend the proceeds of assessments and borrowings in a manner consistent with the purposes for which this Association is formed;

(g) To purchase and maintain property and/or liability insurance if deemed necessary or desirable by the Board;

(h) To make, amend, impose, and enforce by any lawful means, reasonable rules and regulations of use of any Lot, easements, Right of Way, and drainage easements, subject to approval of the Suwannee River Water Management District and/or local government jurisdiction if said approval is so required;

(i) To contract for services with others;

(j) To do and perform anything required by these Articles, the Bylaws, or the Declaration to

be done by an Owner (as that term is defined in the Declaration), but if not done by the Owner 30 days after notice to the Owner, at the expense of the Owner;

(k) To do and perform any obligations imposed upon the Association by the Declaration or by any permit or authorization from any unit of local, regional, state, or the federal government and to enforce by any legal means the provisions of these Articles, the Bylaws and the Declaration;

(l) The Association shall levy and collect adequate assessments against the Members of the Association for the costs of maintenance and operation of the surface water and stormwater management system. Prior to the Developer seeking to transfer the operation and maintenance of the system to the Association, the Developer shall demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the District that over twenty-four (24) consecutive months have passed since the active operation of the Association has commenced. The Developer shall demonstrate the District's satisfaction that the Association is an active ongoing concern, which the Developer shall establish by submitting copies of all minutes of meetings of Members of the Association and/or Board of Directors, with copies of all operation and maintenance expenses incurred, and copies of documentation showing that all assessments that were levied have been collected, and copies of other such documentation as the District may reasonably deem necessary to establish that the Association is an active, functioning and ongoing concern.

The foregoing specific duties and responsibilities are not construed in any way as limiting the powers of the Association. Rather, the Association will have and exercise all the powers conferred upon Associations so formed.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

The Developer and every person or entity who is a record owner of a fee or undivided fee interest in any Lot which is subject by covenants of record to assessment by the Association, including contract sellers and owners of life estates in a Lot, shall be a Member of the Association. The foregoing is not intended to include persons or entities who hold an interest as security for the performance of an obligation. The Association membership of each Owner shall be appurtenant to the Lot giving rise to such membership, and shall not be separated from the ownership of a Lot in the Property, except on the transfer of title to said Lot and then only to the transferee of title thereto. Any transfer of title to a Lot shall operate automatically to transfer the membership in the Association appurtenant thereto to the new Owner thereof. For all Association purposes, each Lot shall be entitled to only one vote, regardless of the number of record owners of that Lot.

ARTICLE VI INITIAL CONTROL BY DEVELOPER

Notwithstanding the other provisions contained in these Articles to the contrary, Mark P. Sullivan and Nancy J. Sullivan, or their successors in interest (the "Developer") shall have the control of the activities of the Association and its affairs until such time as the Developer relinquishes that

right or three (3) months after Ninety Percent (90%) of the Lots within HERMITAGE have been conveyed to persons other than Developer.

The Developer, prior to relinquishing control of the Association or otherwise allowing control to transfer to the directors of the Association, shall provide at least (30) days written notice to the Suwannee River Water Management District that all terms and conditions placed upon the Developer by permits or authorizations from the Suwannee River Water Management District have been satisfied in full and that transfer is proposed to occur on a specific date.

ARTICLE VII SUBSCRIBER

The name and street address of the Subscribers to these Articles of Incorporation are: **Mark P. Sullivan and Nancy J. Sullivan**, 20638 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, Florida 32615.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Until such time as the Developer relinquishes control of the Association, the Board may amend these Articles by adopting a resolution setting forth the amendment, without any vote of the Members, certifying the amendment to the Secretary of State for the State of Florida, and recording such amendment in the Public Records of Columbia County, Florida. After such time as the Developer relinquishes control of the Association, amendments to these Articles shall be proposed and adopted in the following procedure:

(a) The Board shall adopt a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of Members, which may either be the annual meeting or a special meeting;

(b) Within the time and in the manner provided in the By-Laws for the giving of Notice of meetings of the Members, written notice setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to each Owner entitled to vote thereon. If the meeting is an annual meeting, the proposed amendment or such summary may be included in the notice of the annual meeting;

(c) At such meeting, a vote of the Members entitled to vote thereon shall be taken on the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes entitled to vote thereon.

(d) Any number of amendments may be submitted to the Members and voted upon by them at one meeting;

(e) If all of the Directors and all of the Members eligible to vote sign a written statement

manifesting their intent that an amendment to these Articles be adopted, then the amendment shall thereby be adopted as though Article VIII (a) through VIII (c) had been satisfied;

(f) No amendment shall make any changes in the qualifications for Members nor the voting rights of Members without the approval in writing by all Members. No amendment shall be made that is in conflict with the Master Declaration.

(g) Further Limitations on Amendments: Amendments to Articles or Bylaws which directly or indirectly impact operation and maintenance of the surfacewater or stormwater management system, may be made only after approval by the Suwannee River Water Management District. Such approval shall be in the form of a modification to any and all permits issued by the Suwannee River Water Management District under the lawfully adopted rules of the Suwannee River Water Management District in effect at the time of application for such modification.

Amendments to the Articles or the Bylaws which do not impact operation or maintenance of the system may be made without authorization of the Suwannee River Water Management District; however, copies of any such amendments shall be forwarded to the District within 30 days of approval.

(h) A copy of each amendment shall be certified by the Secretary of State, State of Florida, and recorded in the Public Records of Columbia County, Florida.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

The power to make, amend, and rescind By-Laws of the Association shall be vested in the Members as provided by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE X BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall be elected as provided in the By-Laws of the Association. The affairs of this Association shall be managed by a Board of at least three (3) but not more than six (6) Directors. The names and addresses of the persons who are to act in the capacity of Directors until the selection of their successors are:

Mark P. Sullivan, 20638 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, Florida 32615
Nancy J. Sullivan, 20638 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, Florida 32615
Thomas Sullivan, 20638 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, Florida 32615

The first annual meeting of the members shall elect one director for a term of one year, one director for a term of two years, and one director for a term of three years, and at each annual meeting thereafter the members shall elect one director for a term of three years.

ARTICLE XI OFFICERS

The affairs of the Association shall be administered by the officers designated in the Bylaws. The officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting and they shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The names and addresses of the persons who shall serve until their successors are designated by the Board of Directors are:

President - Mark P. Sullivan, 20628 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, FL 32615
Vice President - Nancy J. Sullivan, 20628 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, FL 32615
Secretary - Thomas Sullivan, 20628 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, FL 32615
Treasurer - Thomas Sullivan, 20628 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, FL 32615

ARTICLE XII REGISTERED AGENT AND OFFICE

The address of the initial Registered Office of the Association is 20638 NW 78th Avenue, Alachua, Florida 32615, and the name of its initial Registered Agent at that address is **Mark P. Sullivan.**

ARTICLE XIII INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Each person who has served as an officer or director of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against liability and against expenses (including attorney's fees) reasonably incurred by him in connection with any action, suit or proceeding by reason of his being or having been an officer or director of the corporation, or any settlement of any proceeding, or any appeal from such proceeding, to which he may be a party or in which he may become involved by reason of his being or having been a director or officer of the Association, whether or not he is a director or officer at the time such expenses are incurred, regardless of by whom the proceeding was brought, except in relation to matters as to which he shall be finally adjudged liable for gross negligence or willful misconduct, provided that in the event of a settlement, the indemnification shall apply only when the Board of Directors of the Association approves such settlement and reimbursement as being for the best interest of the Association. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which such director or officer may be entitled. This right of indemnity shall also inure to the benefit of the person's legal representative or successor. The directors shall have the power to indemnify other employees of the corporation upon the same terms. Each such person, whether officer, director or employee, shall be entitled to the full extent of the indemnification provided pursuant to applicable statutes in the State of Florida for a non for profit corporation such as this Association.

**ARTICLE XIV
DISSOLUTION OF ASSOCIATION**

The Association may be dissolved with the assent given in writing and signed by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the voting interests of the Association.

Prior to dissolution of this Association, all property, interest in property, whether real, personal, or mixed, which is directly or indirectly related to the surfacewater or stormwater management systems, including but without limitation, all lakes, ditches, canals, retention or detention areas, drainage, other surface water or stormwater management works, and preservation or conservation areas, wetlands, and wetland mitigation areas which are owned or controlled by the Association or the owners in common, will be dedicated to and accepted for maintenance by the appropriate unit of government or otherwise transferred to and accepted for maintenance by an approved entity. Dedication or approval must be authorized by the Suwannee River Water Management District through modification of any and all permits or authorizations issued by the Suwannee River Water Management District. Such modification shall be made under the lawfully adopted rules of the Suwannee River Water Management District in effect at the time of application for such modification.

**ARTICLE XV
CONFLICTS**

Should a conflict exist or arise between any of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the provisions of the Bylaws, the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation shall control.

9th IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has signed those Articles of Incorporation on the 9th day of April, 2007.



Mark P. Sullivan



Nancy J. Sullivan


**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA**

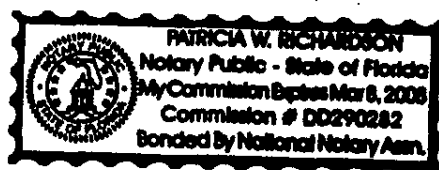
SWORN TO, SUBSCRIBED and ACKNOWLEDGED before me this 9th day of April, 2007, by **Mark P. Sullivan and Nancy J. Sullivan**, who are ☐ personally known to me or who has ☒ produced their Florida Drivers' Licenses as identification.

(SEAL)

My commission expires:

Hermitage\Articles of Incorp.

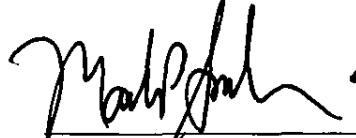

Print name: **PATRICIA W. RICHARDSON**
Notary Public, State of Florida



ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTERED AGENT

The undersigned hereby accepts appointment as Registered Agent of Hermitage of Columbia County Homeowners Association, Inc., which is contained in the foregoing Articles of Incorporation.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2007.



Mark P. Sullivan

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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA