

Minutes
Essex County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
August 1, 2023
7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Essex County Planning Commission was held on July 5, 2023, at the Essex County School Board Office, Tappahannock, Virginia.

Present:

David Jones – Chairman
Angelo Stevens – Vice Chairman
Stephen Walters
Wright Andrews – via video
Jean Segar
Trent Taliaferro

Absent:

Benjamin Scott Mundie

Also present:

Kelly McKnight – Planning and Zoning Office Manager

CALL TO ORDER

David Jones, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Jones asked Ms. McKnight to call the roll. A quorum was met.

MEETING AGENDA

Chairman Jones asked if any changes needed to be made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Jones asked if there were any corrections or additions needed for the July 5th minutes? Mrs. Segar made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Stevens seconded the motion. AYES: 7 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Jones stated that Rob Hodges has retired. The County has hired Brian Barnes, who was the Planning and Zoning Director for Lancaster. He has started but will be full time in two weeks.

Mrs. Segar asked if they had advertised that position or was it just given to him?

Chairman Jones stated that he was not sure but guessed they advertised it. Brian did a good job while in Lancaster and he feels he will do a good job here. He is knowledgeable, direct and fair in his governing of the zoning and subdivision ordinance.

Mrs. Segar stated that she had not seen anything.

Chairman Jones stated that Wright Andrews is at home under the weather and Darla, who has helped us from the Berkley Group, lost her husband.

Chairman Jones stated that we had to review the comprehensive plan. After what we got done last month, the fact that Rob is gone and we have a new gentleman coming in we should wait until Brian is here to discuss further.

Mr. Taliaferro stated that he was out last month but based on the minutes it looked like a lively meeting. He asked how far did they get?

Chairman Jones stated all the way through it. If Rob had still been here we would have gone back over what we had done. Rob had him call someone from the Middle Peninsula Planning District to help them with the comprehensive plan and get some numbers together to present to the board. He called him last Thursday and will try again tomorrow. He left him a message to see about getting some numbers for help.

Mr. Walters asked if this would just be a cost estimate for it?

Chairman Jones stated it was to tell them where we were in the process, what he thought we were going to need from them so that he could come back and say what it would cost depending on what we want.

Mr. Walters stated that he and Mr. Mundie were in planning commission class and talking about it. He mentioned that the gentleman from the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission had be out to talk with them and it would be good to touch base with them.

Chairman Jones stated that he is contacting a different person then who came to speak last time.

Mr. Walters asked for clarification that the next meeting we will be talking about the steps going forward and what we think we need help with?

Chairman Jones stated that is correct and Brian will be on board so we can bring him along with us. He is hoping that the gentleman from the MPPDC will be able to attend that meeting as well. Once he speaks to the MPPDC and gets a quote he will go before the board to tell them where we are in the process, how much money we will need from them for Brian to hire them and move forward.

Mr. Walters asked if they were thinking like a package deal or are we going to manage it ourselves and farm out particular activities?

Chairman Jones stated we will know more when we have someone from the MPPDC come in and talk to us about it. One of the things is what they think it is going to cost so we can get the approval from the board to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Jones stated that we needed to extend out the discussion on the Mt. Clement Project. He stated that the extension should come from Cherie not from the planning Commission.

Cherie Monterio with 7&M Development stated they have been working with Darla from the Berkley Group. They are requesting to defer the discussion from the June Meeting where they deferred it to August 1 meeting. They would like to defer it again until the September 5th meeting. They would like defer it to continue working with the County staff so that they can be on the same page.

Mrs. Segar asked Ms. Monterio if she knew that advertising had to be in two weeks prior.

Ms. Monterio stated that she did. Mr. Hodges had given them their time frames and they are waiting for Mr. Barnes to submit from that. They have submitted drafts to Mr. Hodges and are waiting for feedback. Once they have that feedback they will see how to proceed.

Mr. Taliaferro asked if this would be an advertised public hearing?

Chairman Jones stated that yes it would be. He asked what the official name of the corporation was?

Ms. Monterio stated 7&M Development, LLC. June Monterio and 7&M Development are the applicants.

Chairman Jones stated that 7&M Development, LLC is requesting to defer their next conversation for the Mt. Clements project until September 5th.

Mrs. Segar made a motion to accept the request to defer until September 5th. Mr. Stevens seconded the motion. AYES: 6, NAYES: 0, ABSENT: 1

Chairman Jones asked if it were Mr. Andrews and Mr. Walters taking the Planning Commission course.

Mr. Walters stated that it was himself, Mr. Mundie and was supposed to be Mr. Andrews but he is unable to attend.

Mr. Andrews stated that he got a message from Rob that he was able to get his registration switched over to virtual. He will be looking at the recordings in October and be able to catch up in the fall.

Mr. Walters stated that they have taken the first two days and they were given homework. They will continue the class in the fall.

ADJOURN

Having no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. AYES: 6, NAYES: 0, ABSENT: 1

Chairman