

**AMHERST COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014
MINUTES**

VIRGINIA

A public meeting for the Amherst County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, September 4, 2014, in the Board of Supervisors Room located in the Administration Building at 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Derin Foor, Chairman
Beverly Jones, Vice Chairman
Michael Martineau
Les Irvin
Lillian Floyd
George Brine

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Pugh, Board of Supervisors Liaison

STAFF PRESENT: Jeremy Bryant, Director of Planning/Zoning
Austin Mitchell, Assistant Zoning Administrator/Planner
Stacey Stinnett, Administrative Assistant

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Citizens Comments
4. Board of Zoning Request
 - A. #2014A-03 Phyllis Hartless (tax map# 148D-1-121-124)
5. Miscellaneous Code Changes
6. Old/New Business
7. Monthly Report for August 2014
8. Approval of Minutes for August 21, 2014
9. Adjournment

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Planning Commission Action:

Motion: Irvin Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Second: Martineau

The motion carried by a 6-0 vote

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were none.

4. BOARD OF ZONING REQUEST

A. # 2014A-03 Phyllis Hartless (tax map# 148D-1-121-124)

Request by Phyllis Hartless for approval of a variance from Section 804 of the Amherst County Zoning Ordinance. The requested variance will reduce the setback from the side yard requirement of fifteen (15) feet to approximately nine (9) feet. The purpose of the request is to allow for the expansion of an attached carport. The request is referenced by a drawing submitted by the applicant. The property is located at 150 Pine Acres Drive and is further identified as tax map parcel number 148D-1-121-124.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Staff report and concluded his comments by stating that should the Board of Zoning Appeals approve this request; Staff recommends the following conditions:

1. The property owner shall vacate all interior lot lines.
2. The variance is granted for Tax Map Parcel No. 148D-1-121-124 to reduce the fifteen (15) foot side yard setback to approximately nine (9) feet to allow for an expansion of the existing carport.
3. The granting of this variance shall not be construed to vest in the applicant a right to the variance until all necessary local, State and Federal plan application, review and approval processes have been completed.
4. This approval may be revoked by the County of Amherst or its designated agent for failure by the applicant or its assigns to comply with any of the listed conditions or any provision of Federal, State or local regulations.

Mr. Foor opened the public hearing.

No one spoke in favor or in opposition; therefore, Mr. Foor closed the public hearing.

The Planning Commission had a brief discussion.

Chairman Foor questioned the term "approximately" in number (2) on staff recommendations. Mr. Bryant referenced a conversation that he had had with the a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, advising staff to advertise with the term "approximately" with the understanding that the exact distance would be determined at the meeting. However, Mr. Bryant stated that it has since been determined that the word "approximately" shall be removed from the staff reports.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Jones Motion to recommend request # 2014A-03 Phyllis Hartless (tax map# 148D-1-121-124) to the Board of Zoning Appeals with staff recommendations and strike the word "approximately" from condition number two (2).

Second: Floyd

The motion carried by a 6-0 vote

5. MISCELLANEOUS CODE CHANGES

Mr. Bryant and Mr. Mitchell briefly reviewed multiple potential code changes to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance. Some of the changes are in accordance to the Code of Virginia while other proposed changes are to clarify existing procedures, or provide reductions or requirements related to the regulations.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bryant mentioned that the Stormwater process is improving in the Planning/ Zoning and Building Departments.

Chairman Foor asked for an update on Route 60 being a scenic byway. Mr. Bryant replied that the Board of Supervisors had approved that it be designated as a scenic byway named the Midland Trail. Mr. Bryant stated that the County has received a letter approving Route 60 as a scenic byway.

7. MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2014

The monthly report for August 2014 was reviewed.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AUGUST 21, 2014

August 21, 2014 Minutes

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Irvin Motion to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes with the
one correction

Second: Martineau

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote (Brine abstained)

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Brine Motion to adjourn.

Second: Irvin

The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

/ss/9.10.14



Chairman