

**AMHERST COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017
MINUTES**

VIRGINIA

A public meeting for the Amherst County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, October 19, 2017, in the Public Meeting Room located in the Administration Building at 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Martineau, Chairman
Derin Foor, Vice Chairman
George Brine
Beverly Jones
Leslie Gamble
Calvin Kennon, EDA Board of Liaison (non-voting)
David Pugh, Board of Supervisors Liaison (non-voting)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Jeremy Bryant, Director of Planning/Zoning
Dylan Bishop, Assistant Zoning Administrator/Planner

STAFF ABSENT: Stacey Stinnett, Administrative Assistant

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Citizens Comments
4. Business Unfriendliness
5. Comprehensive Plan Review
6. Riveredge Trail Extension – VDOT Application Support
7. Old/New Business
 - A. Board Sync Discussion
8. Approval of Minutes for September 21, 2017
9. Adjournment

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

Planning Commission Action:

Motion: Jones Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Second: Foor

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were none.

4. BUSINESS UNFRIENDLINESS

Mr. Foor mentioned that he emailed all the Planning Commission members an email about a month ago regarding his recommendations.

Mr. Bryant gave three (3) recommendations:

1. Hold a joint meeting choosing a Planning Commission member as a liaison to the Economic Development Authority.
2. Review special exceptions in all districts and determine what could be permitted uses. Making the process less lengthy.
3. Reconsider what is a major siteplan versus a minor siteplan. Ease up on the regulations for siteplans. Make the process less lengthy.

The Planning Commission had a brief discussion regarding ways the County could be more business friendly.

Mr. Bryant asked the Planning Commission to review the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance, the Comprehensive Plan and any other policy or regulations that they believe can be addressed to promote a business friendly environment in Amherst County. Mr. Bryant requested that these responses be in final format by the November Planning Commission meeting so that they can be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their first December meeting.

5. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW

Ms. Bishop read her memo regarding the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Section. This included goal and strategies to the draft of the Updated Comprehensive Plan in the Land Use Section. The goal indicates the County's support of development and redevelopment of sites with higher density potential. With the Central Virginia Training Center's upcoming closing as well as expressed interest in a retirement community at County-owned Winton County Club, the Comprehensive Plan addresses these topics in the form of two new objectives. Below is the revised change.

Goal #6

To support development and redevelopment of sites with higher density potential.

Objective #1

Facilitate Planned Unit Developments (PUD) and mixed use communities.

Strategies:

Work with the Service Authority and Health Department to identify best practices to be considered within PUDS.

Review and consider bids on County property such as Winton County Club.

Support development of retirement communities within Amherst County.

Objective #2

Work with various properties and agencies to support the redevelopment of existing or upcoming vacant structures.

Strategies:

Work with General Assembly to identify and demolish derelict buildings.

Continue to understand timeline for Central Virginia Training Center (CVTC) closing.

Work with the Virginia Department of General Services and Economic Development Authority (EDA) to attract appropriate proposals for Redevelopment of the CVTC property.

Assess and market properties for their highest and best use.

Mr. Bryant discussed his memo regarding the revised schedule for the Comprehensive Plan Update – 2017. The draft schedule proposed a public hearing on November 16, 2017 for the Planning Commission. See below the proposed schedule:

Activity Name	Duration (Days)	Start Date	Finish Date
Demographic Data/Land Use Sections	90	Feb. 1, 2017	
Reequest review & comments from other departments & agencies	90	Feb. 1, 2017	
Review and approval VDOT	24	Sept. 25, 2017	
Planning Commission Review/ Approval	Approx. 180	May 18, 2017	Proposed Public Hearing date: Nov. 16, 2017
Board of Supervisors Review/Approval	41	Dec. 5, 2017	Proposed Public Hearing date: Jan. 16, 2018*

*Date will be determined by the Board of Supervisors.

The Planning Commission had a general consensus to approve the Comprehensive Plan Schedule.

6. RIVEREDGE TRAIL EXTENSION – VDOT APPLICATION SUPPORT

Mr. Bryant discussed the four phases of the Trail Extension and requested that a motion be made giving the Chairman the approval to sign the letter addressed to Mr. Rodgers stating that the Planning Commission was in full support of the application and the County's match contribution to this year's project regarding the Riveredge Trail Extension and urged VDOT to include this final section within this year's award.

Phase 1 – Building, Parking

Phase 2 – Trail

Phase 3 – Easements thru CVTC. Grants, Sewer Lines

Phase 4 – Possibility of getting approval from the Lee family to negotiate approval to access their property to extend the trail.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Jones Motion for Chairman Martineau to sign the letter addressed to Mr. Dean Rodgers regarding the riveredge Trail Extension.

Second: Brine

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS – BOARD SYNC DISCUSSION

Mr. Bryant briefly spoke on the Board Sync Program, explaining that this was a tool designed for the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors and County Staff to go and retrieve information regarding meeting agenda's and minutes for Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

There was a brief discussion regarding the status of Phelps Road School.

Mr. Bryant updated the Planning Commission on the outcome of the most recent BZA cases.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

The minutes were approved with no changes.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Foor Motion to approve the minutes for September, 21, 2017 as submitted.

Second: Brine

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

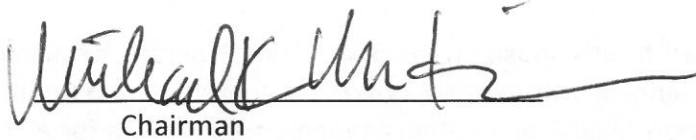
Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Brine Motion to adjourn.

Second: Jones

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

/ss/11.9.17



Chairman