

**AMHERST COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013  
MINUTES**

**VIRGINIA**

A public meeting for the Amherst County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, March 21, 2013, in the Board of Supervisors Room located in the Administration Building at 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donald Hedrick, Chairman  
Mitch Heishman, Vice-Chairman  
Beverly Jones  
George Brine  
Derin Foor

**STAFF PRESENT:** Austin Mitchell, Assistant Zoning Administrator/Planner  
Stacey Stinnett, Administrative Assistant

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Donald Kidd, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Leslie Irvin

**STAFF ABSENT:** Jeremy Bryant, Director of Planning/Zoning

**Amended Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Citizens Comments
4. Comprehensive Plan Update
5. Presentation by Dan French – Service Authority  
– Package Plants & Watershed
6. Old/New Business
7. 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:** Jones            Motion to approve the agenda.

**Second:** Heishman

**The motion carried by a 5-0 vote**

## **3. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

There were none.

## **4. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Mitchell, Assistant Zoning Administrator/Planner, briefed the Planning Commission on the upcoming meeting dates for the Comprehensive Plan, which is for Board of Supervisors review on April 2, 2013 and a joint public hearing between the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on May 21, 2013.

## **5. PRESENTATION BY DAN FRENCH – SERVICE AUTHORITY – PACKAGE PLANTS & WATERSHED**

Dan French, Director of the Public Utilities, discussed two package plants in the Winesap Road area and the current state and future goals for the Amherst county Service Authority's sewer system. Mr. French stated that there are currently two individual package plants in use in Invanhoe Forest and WestBriar Place subdivisions and that these plants get good reviews from the Department of Environmental Quality and has been updated over time. The WestBriar Place package plant releases into the Harris Creek Watershed that provides drinking water to Madison Heights. The current County Code does not allow individual package plants. Mr. French explained the history of how the Service Authority came to operate these facilities and the desire to eventually install lift stations to pump sewage to existing sewer lines on U.S. 29. Mr. French estimated that currently each plant cost the county approximately \$5,000 per year due to the cost of operation exceeding the user cist if water rates. Mr. French stated that the future Chesapeake Bay Act regulations for the removal of nitrogen and phosphorous would likely lead to a need to make the improvements. Mr. French then presented an overview of the current sewer system and the future extension plans for the system. Following Mr. French's presentation, the Planning Commission further discussed the issue of the two (2) package plants. The Commission discussed their role in suggesting projects for incorporation into the Capital Improvement Plan.

**Planning Commission Action:**

**Motion:** Jones      Motion to encourage the Board of Supervisors to consider replacing the existing package plants at Ivanhoe Forest and Westbriar Place subdivisions at some point in the future and work in estimates for work into the Capital Improvement Plan. The rationale for this motion is the loss of \$10,000 per year to the current water system, the future potential impact of the Chesapeake Bay Act regulations, and potential problems relating to flow into the channel that feeds the Madison Heights water system.

**Second:** Brine

**The motion carried by a 5-0 vote**

**6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**


There being no more business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:**

**Motion:** Heishman      Motion to adjourn.

**Second:** Foor

**The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.**

  
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Chairman

/ss/4.02.13