

**AMHERST COUNTY
ROUTE 29 BUSINESS BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017
MINUTES**

VIRGINIA

A public meeting for the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, in Board of Supervisors Room located in the Administration Building at 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Jones, Chairman
Calvin Kennon
Lori Saunders
Benita Unrue
CT Wingfield
Teresa Brooks-Dudley
Dottie Rucker
Jeremy Bryant

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lesley McPhatter

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

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Citizens Comments
4. Discussion with Sherriff's Office and VDOT
5. Old/New Business
6. Approval of Minutes for November 22, 2016
7. Adjournment

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

Ms. Jones welcomed CT Wingfield as the newest member of the committee.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Action:

Motion: Unrue Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Second: Kennon

The motion carried by a 8-0 vote

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were none.

4. DISCUSSION WITH SHERRIFFS OFFICE AND VDOT

Mr. Don Austin, VDOT Residency Administrator, spoke briefly on VDOT's mowing circuit throughout the year, stating that the basic process is three to four times per year for primary routes (such as U.S. 29 or Virginia 130) and two to three times a year for secondary routes. Mr. Austin stated that added maintenance is limited by money, time and people.

Captain John Grieser of the Amherst County Sheriff's Office stated that a lot of the maintenance through the office is complaint driven and there is a code enforcement officer that handles these situations and the office utilizes the inmate workforce as well. He encouraged the committee to reach out to the sheriff's office if members see something of concern and the office will coordinate with the inmate workforce supervisors.

Mr. Bryant presented the committee with a ranked list of priorities for maintenance of the corridor. Mr. Bryant stated that the numbers might change with the inclusion of rankings from C.T. Wingfield, the newest member of the committee. Mr. Bryant noted that the number one priority according to the committee is signs along corridor.

Mr. Wingfield agreed that the signs may not be attractive but stated that "business owners don't waste their time just planting signs and signs are important to business owners whether you dine, shop, or saw something at a traffic light...it is really important to the business owner."

Mr. Kennon stated that the committee does not want there to be a difference of opinion of whether the sign is "hideous" or "vital" but that there should be some sort of mesh or mend where the county allows these signs in a designated area.

Mr. Bryant suggested that the committee nominate one member to join staff to ride along the Rt 29 Business Corridor and generate a specific list targeting prioritized issues in specific areas of the corridor. The committee agreed to nominate Benita Unrue.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bryant informed the committee that the meeting dates, agenda and approved minutes were being advertised on the county website.

The Committee agreed to meet again Wednesday, January 25^h at 4:00 pm.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2016

Action:

Motion: Brooks-Dudley Motion to approve the Minutes for the November 22, 2016 Meeting.

Second: Kennon

The motion carried by a 8-0 vote.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Action:

Motion: Saunders Motion to adjourn.

Second: Wingfield

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote. (MCPhatter, Rucker, Brooks-Dudley absent)

/ss/1.25.17


Chairman

