

**AMHERST COUNTY  
ROUTE 29 BUSINESS BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019  
MINUTES**

**VIRGINIA**

A public meeting for the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 in the County Administration Meeting Room located in the Administration Building at 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Beverly Jones, Chairwoman  
Calvin Kennon, Vice Chairman  
Lori Saunders  
Benita Unrue  
Teresa Brooks  
Jeremy Bryant  
Ruth Martineau

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dottie Rucker

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dylan Bishop, Assistant Zoning Administrator/Planner  
Stacey Stinnett, Administrative Assistant

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Update on Sign Banners
4. Mowing Priority List
5. Code Enforcement Items
6. Food Truck Ordinance
7. Old/New Business
  - A. Update on Site Plans
  - B. Tree Protectors
  - C. Remaining Funds in Budget
8. Adjournment

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Jones called to order at 4:00 PM.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

#### **Action:**

**Motion:** Saunders                      Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

**Second:** Unrue

**The motion carried by 6-0 vote. (Kennon had not yet arrived)**

Ms. Jones introduced John Ruff, owner of Deck and Yard. Mr. Ruff is interested in becoming a potential member of the Route 29 Business Beautification Corridor Committee.

Mr. Kennon arrived at 4:01 pm.

### **3. UPDATE ON BANNERS**

Mr. Bryant updated the committee on the banners. Mr. Bryant stated that they had been ordered and they were ready at McBride Signs. Mr. Bryant will be in touch with Tony McBride on getting together to ride around and show him where the banners will be places.

### **4. MOWING PRIORITY LIST**

Mrs. Bishop stated that she had spoken with Don Austin's replacement at Virginia Department of Transportation, Robert Brown, giving him a priority location list of the locations that needed mowed. The committee had a consensus to move item #5 to Item #1.

Mr. Kennon stated that the removal of portable signs should be included to the list.

The updated list:

1. Medians on Route 29 Business – including removing weeds between concrete and asphalt.
2. Areas in front of Lowes
3. Expressway bridge to McDonalds
4. John Lynch Bridge to Route 163
5. Route 210
6. Removal of portable signs throughout corridor

## **5. CODE ENFORCEMENT ITEMS**

Mrs. Bishop updated the committee that a notice of violation had been sent to the owner of the Seminole Plaza Shopping in relation to the large concrete sign, The old Harris Tire location, Hooper Center and the old Long John Silver's location. Mrs. Bishop stated that any sign that is still up for a business that has not been in operation for (4) or more months is in violation.

Mrs. Bishop also stated that demolition would be taken place on the house located near Dollar General and the old Woody's Home.

Mrs. Bishop updated the committee that a Red Roof Inn would be moving in where the old Howard Johnsons location is. Mrs. Bishop also stated that she did not know when the two houses and Sid's Restaurant would be demolished.

## **6. FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE**

Mr. Bryant stated that he had received some complaints on the appearance of food trucks and he wanted to get the committees opinion on how they should be regulated because currently the County does not have an ordinance.

The committee discussed current food trucks within the County and food trucks that would be grandfathered. The committee did not want to be too restrictive reflecting on the County being not business friendly however, the committee was aware that certain food trucks would trip a site plan and require additional information to meet County codes.

Chairwoman Jones requested that the committee think about this and at the next Route 29 Business Beautification Corridor Meeting on June 26 they will discuss their ideas and then staff can submit to Planning Commission on July 18, 2019.

## **7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Bishop updated the committee on the Biscuitville project which should start construction as early as next month. Mrs. Bishop stated that the Carwash is still waiting review from Virginia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Bryant discussed that the Route 29 Business Beautification Corridor currently has \$2,534.00 left in the budget and have been approved by the Board of Supervisors to receive an additional \$15,000 for next year's budget starting July 1, 2019.

Mr. Kennon recognized Dylan Bishop for being nominated and winning the "Top Leader Award" for her leadership class, which was organized by Lori Saunders.

There was a discussion about the JFG tractor trailers that are lined up in rows and can be seen from the bypass. Mr. Bryant stated that he had reached out to the owner and the owner is

aware they must be removed within (30) days. Mrs. Bishop stated that she had sent another violation letter via mail today.

Mr. Bryant asked Mr. Ruff to submit a formal letter requesting his interest on the Route 29 Business Beautification Corridor Committee and staff will present to the Planning Commission.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

### **Action:**

**Motion:** Brooks                      Motion to adjourn.

**Second:** Kennon

**The motion carried by 7-0 vote.**

/SS/5.23.19

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Chairman