

**AMHERST COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013
MINUTES**

VIRGINIA

A public meeting for the Amherst County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, September 19, 2013, in the Board of Supervisors Room located in the Administration Building at 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Derin Foor, Vice Chairman
Donald Kidd, Board of Supervisors Liaison
George Brine
Beverly Jones
Lillian Floyd

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leslie Irvin, Chairman
Michael Martineau

STAFF PRESENT: Jeremy Bryant, Director of Planning/Zoning
Stacey Stinnett, Administrative Assistant

STAFF ABSENT: Austin Mitchell, Assistant Zoning Administrator/Planner

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Citizens Comments
4. Public Hearing
 - A. 2013-13 Ordinance No. 2013-0010
Amending the Wireless Communication Ordinance
 - B. 2013-14 Ordinance No. 2013-0011
Amending Section 907.04 of the Sign Ordinance
 - C. 2013-15 Ordinance No. 2013-0012
Amending and Adding to Definitions Section
 - D. 2013-16 Ordinance No. 2013-0013
Amending Landscaping Requirements
5. Old/New Business
6. 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: Brine

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were none.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. 2013-13 Ordinance No. 2013-0010 – Amending the Wireless Communication Ordinance

Amending the definition of avoidance areas to provide with respect to ridge areas that it includes only those ridge areas which have, within a 500 yard area, two or fewer personal wireless services facilities at the time of application. This change is intended to facilitate review of applications involving ridge areas that already have sited on them more than two personal wireless service facilities.

Mr. Foor opened the public hearing.

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

Planning Commission Action:

Motion: Brine Motion to approve ordinance 2013-0010 to amend the Wireless Communication Ordinance.

Second: Jones

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote

- B. 2013-14 Ordinance No. 2013-0011 – Amending Section 907.04 of the Sign Ordinance

Amending § 907.04 of the Amherst County Code to permit the erection of a free-standing sign for every main building which has frontage on a public road contiguous to that property.

Mr. Bryant stated that this amended change to the ordinance was expressed by a property owner at the Business Taskforce Meeting that currently has two businesses on one (1) lot and therefore needed permission to allow two (2) freestanding signs.

Mr. Foor opened the public hearing.

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

Planning Commission Action:

Motion: Jones Motion to approve ordinance 2013-0011 amending the Sign Ordinance to be adopted.

Second: Floyd

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote

- C. 2013-15 Ordinance No. 2013-0012 – Amending the Adding to Definitions Section

Amending § 302 of the Amherst County Code to add several definitions, to amend the definitions of accessory structures and restaurants, and to eliminate numbers for each definition.

Mr. Foor opened the public hearing.

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

Mr. Brine brought to the staff's attention several grammar errors that needed correction.

Planning Commission Action:

Motion: Brine Motion to approve ordinance 2013-0012 amending the Definitions for Amherst County Code with corrections.

Second: Jones

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote

- D. 2013-16 Ordinance No. 2013-0013 – Amending Landscaping Requirements

Amending §§1601 and 1603, and §§ 1605 through 1610 of the Amherst County Code to expand the goals of landscaping plans to include supporting stormwater regulations and requirements; amend the minimum requirements relating to the number of size of trees required; increase the size of parking lots to which plans are applicable from five spaces to 20 spaces; allow applicants to submit information indicating screening is not necessary; eliminate requirements relating to tree canopies; and modify the types of suggested trees, shrubs and flowers. This ordinance is a recommendation of the Amherst County Business Taskforce.

Mr. Foor opened the public hearing.

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

Planning Commission Action:

Motion: Jones Move to adopt ordinance 2013-16 Amending the
Landscape Requirements as printed.

Second: Floyd

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bryant updated the Planning Commission on the Virginia Stormwater Management Act that would be taking effect statewide beginning July 1, 2014. Mr. Bryant stated that some localities were trying to opt out of the Act due to certain localities were not considered a "Bay" locality. Mr. Bryant stated that Amherst County is considered to be a "Bay" locality; therefore, the changes beginning July 1, 2014 must be implemented.

6. ADJOURNMENT

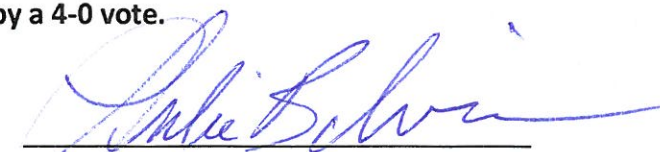
There being no more business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Jones Motion to adjourn.

Second: Floyd

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.



Chairman

/ss/9.24.13