Montgomery County
Planning & GIS Services
2015 Annual Report

2016
Commission & Boards

Planning Commission

Chair:
Robert Miller

Vice-Chair:
Scott Kroll

Secretary:
Coy Allen

Members:
Cynthia Wells Disney
Bryan Rice
Sonia Hirt
Bryan Katz
Steve Howard
Trey Wolz
Chris Tuck (BOS Liaison)
April DeMotts (BOS Alt.)

Board of Zoning Appeals

Chair:
Richard M. DiSalvo, Jr.

Vice-Chair:
Michael V. Reilly

Members:
C.P. "Chuck" Shorter
David Moore
Zach Milton
Robert Miller (alternate)

AFD Advisory Committee

Chair:
Britt A. Boucher

Members:
John Garrett
Thomas A. Loflin
William McElfresh
Gregory W. Miller
Richard J. Obiso, Jr.
Robert J. Styne
Robert K. Miller (PC Rep.)
Chris Tuck (BOS Rep.)

The Planning Commission Annual Report showcases the work of the Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the staff of Planning & GIS for 2015. This report meets the requirements in §15.2-2221 of the Code of Virginia, updating the Board of Supervisors on the operation of the Commission and the status of planning in Montgomery County. The Commission has accomplished significant tasks this year during the 12 meetings held between February through December. The coming meetings in 2016 will be full, as there is much to do related to the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Comprehensive Planning, and transportation.

2015 Planning & GIS Services Major Projects

Staff Development Training:

Staff participated in a development training session and worked as a unified team to develop the following vision statement for the department:

Planning and GIS Services Department Vision Statement

We serve the citizens of Montgomery County by:

- *Providing meaningful customer service through education and enforcement*
- *Navigating land development options and solving related problems for our businesses and citizens*
- *Recognizing and preserving our villages for their unique contributions*
- *Advising our boards and commissions on future growth*
- *Collaborating with governmental partners for best outcomes*

We will serve with purpose, integrity, and dependability, while protecting our land resources for future generations.

NRV Regional Commission Project Collaboration:

Montgomery County Planning staff continued collaboration with the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC) to administer the Safe Routes To School Grant for the Auburn School Strand and Belview Elementary School. Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP was contracted to provide engineering and construction for the two projects. Plans are currently under development. The Commission plans to review the proposals and visit the sites in 2016.

Agriculture & Agritourism:

Staff worked with the Regional Commission on a strategic plan for agriculture and agritourism in the New River Valley. The purpose of the plan is to identify agricultural assets, develop plans of work for agribusiness and agritourism, and develop a brand/identity.

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In addition to major projects that staff work on throughout the year, Planning & GIS staff have diligently been working on everyday activities. In 2015, Planning Staff processed the following requests for zoning permits and subdivisions:
Staff also processed the following applications for review by the Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Staff Review/Approvals				
Application Type	**No. Received**	**No. Approved**	**Pending**	**Withdrawn**
Predevelopment Permit	334	232	98	4
Major Subdivision	1	0	1	0
Minor Subdivision	14	9	5	0
Boundary Line Adjustment Plat	73	58	14	1
Family Subdivision Plat	9	4	5	0

Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission & Board of Supervisors			
Application Type	**Number Processed**	**Number Approved**	**Number with Proffers or Conditions**
Rezoning	4	4	3
Special Use Permit	8	8	8
Special Use Permit (BZA)	4	4	4
Variance/Appeal	0	0	0

Comprehensive Plan Amendments:
There was one (1) Comprehensive Plan amendment in 2015. Per request by James Tyler Otey Hoge, Et Al, the future land use map designation for property containing approximately 172 acres, located east of Brooksfield Road, North of Prices Fork Road was amended from Resource Stewardship to Village Expansion. The Prices Fork Village Plan map was further amended to classify the property as Low Density Residential.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments:
Three zoning ordinance amendments were reviewed and approved this past year.

1. The Board of Supervisors approved an amendment regarding Residential Beekeeping. The amendment allows beekeeping as a permitted use under urban agriculture in most residential zoning districts. The amendment also clarified the animal unit definition to include beehives for small scale agriculture purposes.
2. An amendment to compact development in the Residential (R2) and Residential (R3) zoning districts was also approved during 2015. The amendment revised the minimum lot width that would be permitted when curb and gutter is installed in accordance with VDOT standards.
3. Several zoning districts were amended to incorporate “public use, public facility” as a by-right use and residential zoning districts were amended to allow “public use, public facility” by special use permit.

Other Commission Activities:
When Commissioners were not hearing requests, amending ordinances, receiving training, or discussing the comprehensive plan, they were reviewing and updating bylaws, and completing a survey/self evaluation to help staff evaluate various needs; such as training, packet information, etc. Staff will continue to conduct the survey on a yearly basis to ensure that Planning Commissioners are receiving the staff support and information needed to conduct their jobs effectively.

GIS AND MAPPING SERVICES

In addition to ongoing daily duties and continuing activities (assisting various departments/agencies, creating E911 addresses/road names, creating/updating various mapping layers to support County departments/agencies, maintaining the external iGIS website, providing maps, etc.) GIS staff has participated and assisted with several projects through out the year such as: creating and enhancing tear-off county and town maps for Regional Tourism; creating maps associated with the proposed MVP pipeline; and providing data/mapping associated with rural additions program and safe routes to school grant. In addition to those projects: Bob Pearsall, GIS Manager, prepared and gave presentation at Estonian Embassy in Washington, DC to US state/local governments and EU countries on our land development and permitting and inspections eGOV initiatives.

The following agencies/departments have received support or assistance from GIS Staff in 2015:

- Planning
- Commission of Revenue (Land Use Program)
- PSA
- IT
- Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries & US Marshals Office
- Montgomery County Public Schools
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- County Administration
- Economic Development
- Citizens, taxpayers, realtors, appraisers
- Voter Registrar
- Sheriff's Office
- Emergency Services and Fire/Rescue

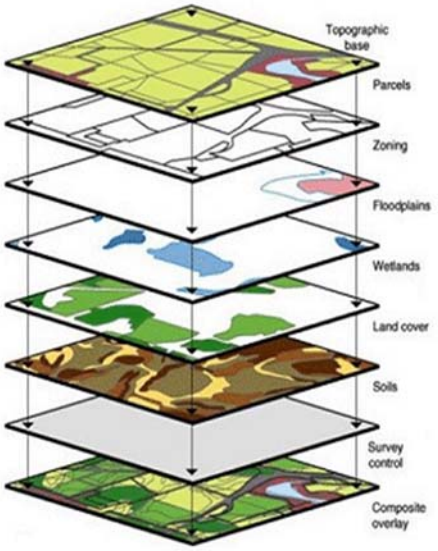
NRV REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

GIS staff continues to support the NRV Regional Emergency Communications Authority through administration and project management of VITA Wireless Board PSAP 2013-14 Grant for GIS data merging and near real time updates with our towns and Virginia Tech for the Authority's benefit. GeoData Services has been established and maintained to allow the Authority to acquire county GIS data updates to be used in PSAP GIS data merge process. In addition, staff has prepared and enhanced PSAP map layers in support of the Authority's selected Computer Assisted Dispatch/ Mapping vendor.

LAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (LDO) SOFTWARE

LDO was further developed in 2015. Staff worked with Building Inspections, OVELA (iGIS application developer), XEROX (application developer), and County IT staff to integrate our Advanced Permitting & Inspections portal (APIX) with our Field Data Application for Code Enforcement/Compliance and Building Permitting and Inspections.

Upcoming: To prepare for the future, principal stakeholders composed and released a Request for Information (RFI) package to begin investigating the replacement of our 7 year old LDO application to achieve eGOV enhanced functionality, web orientation, and more end user citizen/business friendly approach for land development management.



Major Projects Cont'd from page 1

Former Prices Fork Elementary:
Planning staff has worked with the dynamic management committee on planning for the future of the Former Prices Fork Elementary School. In 2015 the County received a $30,000 CDBG Planning Grant which was administered by the NRVRC to plan for the future of the non-residential component of the former school. This is a project that continues to grow and build. More exciting things are coming in 2016.

Transportation RFP:
Montgomery County put out and RFP and selected two consultant firms to assist with the many transportation projects currently underway. These include locally administered projects utilizing VDOT revenue sharing funds. Additionally, staff is excited for the assistance that can be provided as other transportation issues arise. Staff welcomes the firms Clark Nexsen and Whittman, Requardt, and Associates as part of the County's transportation team.

Website Enhancements:
The County's website software was updated in 2015 and staff has been working diligently to improve the web pages for the Planning & GIS Services Department, Planning Commission, and BZA. Providing a more user friendly site with up to date information is a constant goal of staff and

Ongoing Training:
Scott Kroll and Bob Miller attended the Land Use Conference Plan Virginia Legal Seminar. Scott Kroll, Steve Howard, Bob Miller, Emily Gibson, Brea Hopkins, and Dari Jenkins attended the annual Planning Commissioners' Dinner hosted by the Regional Commission. Brea Hopkins attended the VAZO Fall Conference. Candace Ross successfully completed the CPEAV Planning Commissioner Certification Program, Board of Zoning Appeals Certification Program, and the Microsoft Office Excel Specialist Certification program. Scott Kroll, Dari Jenkins, and Emily Gibson attended the Planning for an Agriculture Future in Southwest Virginia Conference.

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