

AT A MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ON JANUARY 8, 2014 IN THE BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Rice, Chair, called the meeting to order.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Ms. Disney established the presence of a quorum.

Present: Bryan Rice, Chair
Cindy W. Disney, Secretary
Coy Allen, Member
Joel Donahue, Member
Scott Kroll, Member
Chris Tuck, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Brea Hopkins, Development Planner
Dari Jenkins, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Erin Puckett, Senior Program Assistant
Steven Sandy, Planning Director

Absent: Frank Lau, Vice-Chair
Sonia Hirt, Member
Bryan Katz, Member

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion by Ms. Disney, and seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously carried the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

On a motion by Ms. Disney, and seconded by Mr. Allen, and unanimously carried the consent agenda was approved.

PUBLIC ADDRESS:

Mr. Rice opened the public address.

Mary Anne Capp (2732 Sugar Grove Road, Christiansburg) commented that she was present at the last Board of Supervisors meeting at which they discussed the Elliot Creek Road abandonment. She spoke at their meeting and wished to present the information to the Planning Commission as well. She stated that there is currently much opposition to the proposed abandonment, as this is a historic road which is heavily used. Ms. Capp added that she brought a signed petition and photos. She further stated that the future of the county, in terms of transportation, emergency services, and recreation would all be negatively impacted by the abandonment of the road. Ms. Capp added that she does not believe the road meets all criteria for abandonment as per the state law.

Mr. Rice asked that Ms. Capp provide any handouts to Mr. Sandy.

There being no further comments the public address was closed.

OLD BUSINESS:

2014 Work Program

Mr. Sandy stated that the final version of the 2014 Work Program was included in the Planning Commission packet. He said that if the Commissioners have no additional comments, the program will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Mr. Sandy reminded the Commissioners that the Work Program can be changed over the course of the year as needed.

Mr. Donahue asked for clarification regarding the grant in number four (4).

Mr. Sandy explained that this was a grant to create a GIS system of existing towers across four (4) localities. GIS is currently working with the 911 Authority to facilitate the study and grant administration.

NEW BUSINESS:

None presented.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- Board of Supervisors – Mr. Tuck said that the contract on the former Prices Fork Elementary School has been signed. The community was happy to be able to preserve the building, and the Board is excited about next steps.
- Agriculture & Forestal District – No report.
- Blacksburg Planning Commission – No report.
- Christiansburg Planning Commission – No report.
- Economic Development Committee – No report.
- Public Service Authority – Mr. Donahue reported that a sewage main is being relocated due to the roadwork on a portion of Route 603 between I-81 exit 128 and Route 460. The PSA approved a \$35,000 increase for the county to assist with the relocation. There is an area near the Christiansburg Town line where the responsibility for utility provision has been given back to the county. There are residents located nearby that may have an interest in being on that water line. The PSA is sending out letters to gauge interest. Mr. Donahue commented that this may have an impact on future planning decisions, particularly on the Comprehensive Plan.
- Parks & Recreation – No report.
- Radford Planning Commission – No report.
- School Board – No report.
- Tourism Council – No report.
- Planning Director’s Report – Mr. Sandy reminded the Commission that they will be meeting at Blacksburg High School for a joint meeting with the Blacksburg Planning Commission, with a tour of the school beforehand. He added that Dan Brugh from the MPO will speak about the Southgate connector and other projects that will affect the area. Anne McClung, the Planning Director for Blacksburg, will talk about the town’s future land use plan. Mr. Sandy will talk about the Prices Fork Village Plan. The meeting will be a general discussion about the future of that area, and there may be opportunity to set up a future meeting for additional discussion.

Mr. Kroll commented that there is likely to be much interest from residents of that area in future development plans, and asked if there would be an opportunity for public input at this meeting.

Mr. Sandy explained that this was not a public hearing at this stage. The town was concerned that the meeting might be perceived as an opportunity to comment on specific projects, when the intent is to keep the meeting as a general, initial dialogue.

Mr. Kroll commented that it may be a good time for the Planning Commission to begin taking a look at the Route 603 corridor. With potential improvements on the horizon, now may be a good time to look at the potential for development opportunities and whether any future land use changes may be needed.

Mr. Sandy commented that, regarding the Elliott Creek Road discussion earlier, the Board of Supervisors has four (4) months to make a decision regarding abandonment. The Planning Commission is not required to review this type of request.

Mr. Tuck added that the Board will hold a work session on the road abandonment soon.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

Chairman

Secretary