

VIRGINIA: MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DINWIDDIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HELD IN THE BOARD MEETING ROOM OF THE PAMPLIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:	SAMUEL W. HAYES	CHAIRMAN	AT-LARGE
	BUTCH CUNNINGHAM	VICE CHAIRMAN	DIST #4
	DR. MARK MOORE		DIST #1
	PATRICIA HAMILTON		DIST #3
	DANIEL LEE		DIST #5
	THOMAS TUCKER		AT-LARGE
	DEAN McCRAY		DIST #2

OTHER:	MARK BASSETT	PLANNING DIRECTOR
	JOHN BLAIR	COUNTY ATTORNEY

---

**IN RE: CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**IN RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mr. Hayes asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence.

**IN RE: ROLL CALL**

Mr. Hayes asked for the roll to be called and all members were present.

**IN RE: MINUTES**

No minutes were available for the Planning Commissioners to vote on.

**IN RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hayes said the members have before them the agenda and asked if there were any corrections. He said since there are none he would entertain a motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Upon a motion by Dr. Moore and a second by Mr. Tucker with Mr. Tucker, Mr. McCray, Mr. Lee, Ms. Hamilton, Dr. Moore, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Hayes voting "Aye" the agenda was accepted as presented.

**IN RE: REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY PLAT(S)**

Mr. Bassett said the Planning Commissioners have before them the preliminary subdivision plat for Hill Farms. He said in October of 2008 a plat for Hill Farms was submitted and it consisted of 21 lots. He said in February of 2009 a revised plat for Hill Farms was submitted and it consisted of 15 lots. He said the significance of the 15 lots, as far as the subdivision ordinance is concerned is, any subdivision that has 15 or fewer lots does not have to meet the requirements for providing a common water or sewer system for the subdivision. He said fortunately for the subdivider there is adequate provisions for public sanitary sewer. He said there is a sewer treatment plant that has been recently upgraded and it can serve one hundred thousand gallons per day. He said this subdivision could tie into that system. He said he is not sure whether the subdivider will go with individual wells or a common well system. He said that information will be addressed as part of their subdivision construction plan review. He said there are three lots that he wants to comment on related to the plat. He said the first is lot two. He said the side yard setbacks along School House Lane should be 35 feet and not 15 feet. He said the lot width should be 115 feet and not 110. He said with lot nine they are showing a lot width less than 100 feet and the minimum lot width is 100 feet. He said with lot 11 the side yard setback on School House Lane should be 35 feet and not 15 feet. He said

the only other part of the plat that has had some discussion stemming from the Land Development Committee meeting is the radius for the cul-de-sac, this would be the actual paved radius on School House Way. He said VDOT and the county would be able to approve the 36 foot present radius that is proposed, but the Fire Marshall would like to see a 45 foot radius. He said the Fire Marshall said the cul-de-sac on School House Lane could be reduced to a 35 foot radius. He said that staff is recommending approval of the plat with those modifications mentioned, and the radius for the two cul-de-sacs will be finalized at the time of construction plan review(s).

**RE: CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Hayes opened the citizen comment portion of the meeting and asked if anyone had signed up to speak.

Ms. Margaret Lewis – 14121 Main Street – Dinwiddie, VA said one of her concern is the traffic that would be coming in and out of this Hill Farms subdivision onto Boydton Plank Road. It is dangerous. She said another concern she has is the water supply. She said what happens when they dig the wells for these new homes and their well goes dry. She said the school is already dumping its waste in the sewer system and I don't know how much more it can take.

He said since no one has signed up to speak he was closing the citizen comment portion of the meeting.

**IN RE: OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Bassett said concerning the proposed Sign Ordinance Text Amendments for the L.E.D. message/reader boards, which were discussed at the last workshop meeting, staff has presented the Commissioners with some basic ideas. He asked the Commissioners if they had any comments.

Mr. McCray said he did not have a chance to call, but he did speak to a few sign owners. He said he spoke to Mr. Harrison, Susan at Heritage Signs, Lee at Hollywood Signs and Mr. Bruce Butler asking them to sit on the Committee. He said he gave them a copy of the sign ordinance and asked if they could get back with him in a week with their thoughts and possibly meet in two weeks with staff.

Mr. Bassett said concerning the Companion Bird Ordinance Amendment staff and legal are still working on the wording. He said he just wants to know if the Commissioners have any additional input or have any additional input been received from citizens for staff.

Mr. Bassett said concerning the Cluster Residential Subdivision Ordinance Amendment staff is working with legal staff in order to bring the Commissioners the amendment for the May 13, 2009 meeting.

**IN RE: COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Bassett to give an update on how he sees the Planning Department functioning this year with the current county budget constraints.

Mr. Tucker said with the economy being as it is, it gives us the opportunity to go back and look at some of the issues that will be coming back before this Commission.

Mr. McCray said that the statement he put in the Dinwiddie Monitor was his personal take on things and nothing official. He said that he will make sure that the Monitor knows that every time he is questioned or interviewed. He said he apologizes if he offended anyone, because that is not his intentions. He said he has the utmost respect for every Commissioner. He said he just wants the citizens to know what the Planning Commission is working on.

Ms. Hayes said he has a couple of items. He said the first is their needs to be some consideration given to realigning Courthouse Road running from the High School into Route 703. He said a four way stop would make very good sense. He said the current intersection design at Courthouse Road and Route 1 has bad sight distance. He said concerning the Route 226 and Rout 600 intersection, VDOT is looking at a holistic approach for the intersection at Ferndale and Cox Roads, where we had Mr. Buffa's case last year, as well as the Route 1 and Route 226 intersection. He said there is an attempt to improve safety, improve access management and discourage people from using the Food Lion parking lot as a cut through. He said VDOT's ultimate goal is to widen Route 1 to four lanes from Intersection 85 up to Petersburg's city limits. He said the cost of that project is about 10 million, but there is MPO money for that project to the tune of about 5 million. He said VDOT is working to have a public hearing a year from now on the project.

**IN RE: PLANNING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Bassett said he had a couple of items to put before the Commissioners. He said the first is a copy of the workshop summary from the multi-modal trail related to the High Speed Rail Corridor that's in your packet. He said the meeting summary is from the public information meeting he attended and there is good information derived from the public's questions. He said he wanted the Commissioners to have the summary because some of the questions and answers may be of interest to them.

Mr. Hayes commented by saying he was at the meeting with Mr. Bassett and there were a lot of questions asked. He said the questions were center around who is going to be liable if someone has an accident on the trail next to their property, what is going to be done about crime, who will maintain the grass and the trail itself, will it cost the county for maintenance and will it cost the county to have a deputy to patrol the trail. He said one of the things he has learned since the meeting that may be of interest is the input other localities have had concerning trails in their county's. He said the localities wanted a trail, but they did not want the hassles of trail maintenance and security. He said they had legislation introduced that created a linear park. He said what that did was, it got DCR to be the administrator of operations and maintenance for this linear park. He said DCR then hired three full time employees to take care of the linear park or trail. He said one person was responsible for managing it, another was responsible for maintenance and the third was a sworn deputy to enforce the law. He said he thought this was a win-win situation for a county that might be reluctant to having a trail.

Mr. Bassett said related to that he went to a meeting at the Crater Planning District. He said at this meeting there was an East Coast Greenway representative who was at the Dinwiddie trail meeting for the High Speed Rail Corridor. He said East Coast Greenway is developing a pamphlet for Virginia. He said Crater was looking for input from all the localities on the East Coast Greenway trail. He said he commented on how we wanted to connect with the Lower Appomattox River Trail that has been established and make sure Dinwiddie is connected with the Five Forks Battlefield Trail enhancements that have taken place. He said the trail would also come by the White Oak Battle field, then come into the Dinwiddie Courthouse area and correct back to Route 1 and head south to McKenney.

Mr. Bassett said another item is concerning the Technical Committee from the Tri-Cities MPO that we participate in. He said we have received an update on the ARRA monies and it looks like we will get \$3,252,000.

Mr. Bassett mentioned to the Planning Commissioners about the Planning Department staff changes. He mentioned who was laid off, he mentioned who was and will be moving offices and he mentioned the new line of supervision. He informed the Commissioners that in July the Planning Department will be advertising for a Zoning Administrator.

Mr. Bassett mentioned that there are a few things that might come before the Planning Commission next month. He said one is a Special Exception for a Family Division. He said anther is a Rezoning in the urban area of the County more specifically the Blue

Tartan Road and Duncan Road area. He said there are also a couple of Ordinance Amendments that may be coming before you at the next Planning Commission meeting.

**IN RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Mr. Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Tucker seconded it with all members voting "Aye", the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Bassett  
Planning Director

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Planning Commission Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_