

**RICHMOND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 11, 2013

The Richmond County Planning Commission held its regular scheduled meeting on March 11, 2013 in the Public Meeting Room, County Administrative Building, Warsaw.

The following members were present:

Glenn Bowen
Jesse Clark
Darnell Clayton
Rick Cox
Martha Hall
Cassandra Jackson
Clifton Jenkins
John Lewis

The following member was absent:

Joseph Gaines
Joyce Pemberton

Also present:

R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator
Mercedes Pierce, Planning Commission Secretary
Harry Smith, NNEC
Kelly Liddington

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rick Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting began with a moment of prayer by Chairman Rick Cox.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chairman Rick Cox welcomed all attendees of the meeting and also welcomed the two new members, Glenn Bowen and Jesse Clark, to the Planning Commission. Chairman Cox asked Glenn Bowen and Jesse Clark to introduce themselves. Jesse Clark introduced himself first and

explained his background and how long he has lived in the county and Glenn Bowen followed with his personal introduction, informing everyone of the length of time he has resided in Richmond County along with his schooling and employment history. Chairman Cox welcomed the new members once again.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2013 MEETING

The Planning Commission briefly reviewed the minutes from the February 11, 2013 meeting. Martha Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darnell Clayton seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Clifton Jenkins presented the 2013 Slate of Officers for the Planning Commission, which were as follows:

- Rick Cox, Chairman
- Martha Hall, Vice-Chairman
- Mercedes Pierce, Secretary
- Denise Dunaway, Alternate Secretary

Jesse Clark motioned to approve the presented Slate of Officers for 2013 and John Lewis seconded this motion and it was unanimously accepted.

STORMWATER UPDATE

Morgan Quicke informed the Planning Commission that Richard English was unable to attend the meeting, but provided information in the packet for the Stormwater update. He asked the members to direct all questions and comments to Richard English for better understanding. Morgan informed the members he would have Richard English attend April's Planning Commission meeting.

Martha Hall asked Morgan Quicke if the Stormwater package included in the members' packages was submitted to the county attorney and Morgan Quicke replied saying he was not sure. Martha Hall questioned the next step in the process of adopting the Stormwater regulations and asked that Richard English attend next month's meeting and provide step by step details.

Martha Hall commented that the Stormwater packet Richard English included in the Planning Commission's meeting packets were very helpful.

Chairman Rick Cox asked Morgan Quicke how he would like to receive comments pertaining to the new Stormwater regulations because he has personal concerns. Morgan replied saying Richard English would like for all questions and comments to be written. Martha Hall pointed out that Richard English specifically stated in his memo to all members that he would like to receive all questions and comments in written format. Glenn Bowen asked if the members should submit all questions to Richard English in the next month before the next meeting. Morgan Quicke replied by saying all questions should be compiled in the next two months and he is sure a public hearing will be required and presented a date of late summer or early fall of 2013 for the public hearing. Martha Hall pointed out to the other members that Richard English plans to distribute compiled lists of questions on a monthly basis and that now is the time for the Planning Commission members to submit their questions to Richard English.

Chairman Cox would like for all members to share each other's comments with one another in hopes of everyone being on the same page. He asked Morgan Quicke if all the Stormwater questions should be directed to Richard English. Morgan replied that all questions and comments should be received by Richard English.

Chairman Cox reminded everyone that the new regulations will have a major impact on homeowners. Morgan agreed that the regulations would make things more difficult, especially for owners of single-family dwellings. Chairman Cox commented saying he has lots of comments pertaining to the new Stormwater regulations.

Martha Hall pointed out that Richard English has answered Chairman Cox's drainfield question (if the installation of a drainfield that disturbs more than 2,500 feet will require a Stormwater Management Permit) from February's meeting and it was included in the minutes for that meeting. Chairman Cox feels as if the drainfield question should be included in the Stormwater documents and not just in the Erosion and Sediment documents and feels the county should be able to include what they feel necessary in the Stormwater regulations.

Morgan Quicke addressed the Planning Commission requesting they submit all changes they would like to see made to the draft ordinance as soon as possible because the county's attorney at Sands Anderson should be reviewing the draft very soon. Chairman Cox felt the county would benefit from additions to the draft. Martha Hall encouraged Chairman Cox to send his suggestions directly to Richard English.

John Lewis wanted to confirm that Richard English would be sending a copy of all questions and answers to each member. Morgan reassured him of this.

Morgan Quicke informed the Planning Commission that he would contact the county's attorney at Sands Anderson and get a timeline of when the attorney plans to review the ordinance draft.

Chairman Cox urged all members to look over the draft and submit all questions and comments.

TRAINING COURSES

Chairman Cox pointed out that the Planning Commission now has three new members and asked Morgan Quicke to provide more information on the training courses for the new members. Morgan Quicke informed the Planning Commission of a training offered through Virginia Tech that will occur at the end of the month on March 25th-26th and June 10th-11th. He asked the new members if they would be able to attend this training. Glenn Bowen and John Lewis are unable to attend this training, but Jesse Clark is able to do so.

Morgan Quicke then provided an overview of the training course, including the location and description of classes.

John Lewis asked if a course is available during the summertime. Morgan Quicke replied stating there is a possibility of training in Harrisonburg during this time and pointed out that the trainings are not mandatory but very helpful. John Lewis and Glenn Bowen requested Morgan Quicke provide them with any dates for summer and fall training availabilities.

Chairman Cox commented that the courses are terrific, praised the course instructor, and encouraged the new members to enroll in the course.

Morgan Quicke informed the members that the county will reimburse each member for expenses incurred to attend the trainings.

CELL TOWER – APRIL PUBLIC HEARING

Morgan Quicke informed the Planning Commission that this point on the agenda is strictly for informational purposes and the public hearing date has been set. Morgan Quicke explained that the cell tower would be placed on Richmond Hill Road and gave the dimensions of the

tower. He said the Planning Commission could make a motion to approve the April public hearing for the cell tower.

John Lewis asked if the tower belonged to Verizon. Morgan Quicke replied informing Mr. Lewis that the tower belongs to a company that leases them out. John Lewis asked if Verizon would be leasing the tower. Morgan Quicke informed John Lewis that the company only has a commitment from Verizon. Morgan Quicke said he would advertise for the public hearing and a representative from the company would be attending the public hearing to present a short presentation and would be able to answer any questions pertaining to the cell tower.

Chairman Cox asked if the Planning Commission would receive more information about the cell tower in the April meeting packet. Morgan Quicke assured Chairman Cox that the information would be included.

Chairman Cox made a motion to schedule the public hearing for the cell tower in April. Martha Hall moved to have this motion approved. John Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Chairman Cox asked Morgan to move forward with advertising for the April public hearing date for the cell tower.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Rick Cox asked those in attendance of the meeting if they had any questions or comments and welcomed Mr. Kelly Liddington to join in on more meetings.

Chairman Cox addressed the Stormwater regulations topic again and asked Morgan Quicke if a Stormwater public hearing would be heard by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors. Morgan Quicke replied saying the Planning Commission will hear it first.

Chairman Cox questioned the status of the Stormwater extension and Morgan Quicke reassured Chairman Cox that he strongly believes the county will be granted the extension.

John Lewis asked if the Stormwater regulations were statewide and Morgan Quicke replied saying the regulations are statewide and that it puts the Chesapeake Bay area at an advantage

and disadvantage. John Lewis reiterated his concern for the fees associated with the new Stormwater regulations and is worried that with an increase in fees, prospective homeowners will look for alternative locations if Richmond County's fees are more costly. Chairman Cox said the fees would be established by the state. Chairman Cox also reiterated his cost concerns as well.

Morgan Quicke suggested forming a Stormwater Committee to assist Richard English in the process of adopting the Stormwater ordinances. Martha Hall felt this was not a bad idea. Chairman Cox asked if anyone would be interested in serving on the committee. John Lewis suggested reserving the creation of the committee until the next month's meeting.

Clifton Jenkins asked how the county could change the language of the Stormwater ordinance if it is mandated. Chairman Cox explained that the state has provided a basic format for the ordinance, but it is up to the county to write the actual material. Martha Hall questioned if the state still had to sign off on the draft ordinance and this was confirmed. Martha Hall also clarified Chairman Cox's idea of adding all specific points that the Planning Commission deems necessary to the draft ordinance and wait to see whether or not the state will approve it.

Chairman Cox encouraged the Planning Commission members to read over the draft ordinance that was included in their meeting packet, jot down any questions they may have, and decide whether or not they want to create a Stormwater Committee for next month's meeting.

Chairman Cox asked Mercedes Pierce, the Planning Commission secretary, to provide an updated member list with contact information for each member to be handed out during next month's meeting. John Lewis suggested emailing the list out as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mercedes Pierce
Planning Commission Secretary