

MINUTES
TOWN OF PITTSBORO
PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Monday, November 5, 2012, 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Kenneth Hoyle, Alfreda Alston, John Clifford, Raeford Bland, Karl Shaffer

Members Absent: Shannon Plummer.

Staff Present: Stuart Bass, Planning Director, Ileana Platon, Administrative Support Specialist,

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kenneth Hoyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Alston and seconded by Mr. Bland to approve the minutes for October 1st, 2012.

C. OLD BUSINESS

None listed on the Agenda.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chatham County Conservation Plan – Allison Schwarz Weakly, Conservation Planner, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program

Allison Schwarz Weakly, Conservation Planner with North Carolina Natural Heritage Program provided a PowerPoint presentation introducing the Board to the Chatham County Conservation Partnership. She explained that the Program is funded by 30 organizations and participants including federal, state and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, business owners and landowners. They also received grants from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and NC Wildlife Action Grant. She went into some details on the goals which were:

- Community Vision for the Natural resources
- Greater understanding and awareness of importance and location of our Natural Resources
- Understanding the economic importance of forest resources for timber, recreation and water quality.

She continued by giving a brief summary of Purpose and Needs and Project Overviews which included:

- Conservation plans
- Conservation analysis and mapping
- Environmental resources and GIS data.

The presentation also included stakeholder involvement, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and land protection. Ms. Schwarz Weakly provided information on water intakes for cities within the county and quality of the water. Also provided were examples of applications and use of conservation planning data which included local land use & conservation planning, watershed planning, transportation planning, parks recreation and greenway planning and identification of preservation and restoration sites for mitigation. All the information is available on line at www.chathamconservation.wikispaces.com and if requested she will provide each Planning Board member a hard copy for review. She is also willing to come back and provide the Board members with a tutorial.

Chairman Hoyle expressed the wonderful job she did. All the board members requested a hard copy and suggested that once they receive and review the materials she can return to discuss it further.

2. NC DOT Complete Street Policy

Mr. Bass wanted to briefly introduce the board to the concept. It is something that they may see in the future and provided them with material to review. This was a policy that NC DOT adopted back in July 2009 and it is defined as complete streets. Officially is an idea about looking at the street and define it for a variety of uses including cars, bicycles and pedestrians, also defining the street on how it is going to be used. Recently NCDOT has made available a document that goes into great detail defining this. This book of guidance is about 160 pages and is available on line. It talks about the different kinds of streets based on the use, where it is located and the type of transportation in the area. It lists local main streets, avenues, boulevards and subdivision streets. For further details they have profiles that show examples on the streets depending on their use. Again this is only an introduction to this concept for review.

Mr. Shaffer asked if this was something that would be adopted with what DOT has developed or would the town pick the pieces specific to what they want or would it be project specific.

Mr. Bass responded that he thinks it would be what the town wants.

Mr. Shaffer expressed concerned specifically in Powell Place where streets were reduced in width and it would be challenging to add bike paths, etc.

Ms. Schwartz Weakly added that on the next Chatham County Conservation Plan meeting they will be discussing transportation planning and it would be a good opportunity to interact with professionals at the DOT level working in Chatham County. She also wanted to make the board aware that there is a statewide bike and path plan on the way. It is being conducted by Ulta Greenways. In their statewide plan they can avoid major recreational areas that are really important and also add in areas where it would be convenient for the public to have access to like biking from Downtown Pittsboro to the Rocky River boat access. There is much discussion about incorporating the state bike and path plan into local transportation planning.

There were no further questions from the members of the Board.

E. BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Mr. Hoyle had a concern on the Hillsboro Street water main project by expressing that the detour routes are not marked and had some difficulty driving around the area stating that if he a local encountered this inconvenience how more difficult would it be for anyone passing by. He has also notice that there are still many off street signs visible and if there is any way to enforce this.

F. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Bass did not know if the Planning Board Members were aware that the County has a school impact fee. He distributed to the Board an article in regards of School Impact Fees and Development Regulations posted by David Owens of NC Local Government Law Blog. He explained that it is a tool that is used in different ways across the country. In North Carolina in order to adopt this impact fee it has to have the exclusive authority from Legislation. Chatham County has secured authority to impose an impact fee.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clifford made motion to adjourn, seconded by **Ms. Alston**, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at **8:10 p.m.**