

Planning and Zoning Board

Minutes

Thursday, March 15, 2012

5:30 p.m.

The Blowing Rock Planning and Zoning Board met on Thursday, March 15, 2012 for their regular scheduled meeting. Chairman Jim West called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present were, Doug Pegram, David Laughter, Brenda Fairbetter, Ray Pickett, and David Harwood. Staff members present were Planning Director Kevin Rothrock and Administrative Assistant Tammy Bentley. Members Lisa Stripling and Debbie di Santi were absent.

Chairman West asked if there were any changes to the minutes. There were none.

Mr. Pickett made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pegram. All members were in favor of the motion.

Swearing in of Members

New member Alice Roess was sworn to the Board. Chairman West and Ms. Fairbetter were re-sworn to the Board.

Chairman West welcomed new member Alice Roess to the Board.

Election of Officers

Chairman West asked for nominations and discussion on officers for this year. Mr. Pegram nominated Mr. West to continue as Chairman of the Board and for Mr. Pickett to continue as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Laughter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the recommendation. All members voted in favor of the nomination.

Subcommittee Assignments

The Board discussed subcommittee assignments and agreed to the following:
Zoning - Ms. di Santi, Mr. Pickett, Mr. Pegram and Ms. Roess as new member.
Planning - David Laughter, Ms. Stripling, Mr. Harwood and Chairman West.

Discussion of Building Height and Setbacks in Central Business District

Mr. Rothrock gave the staff report. The Town Council at their annual retreat asked the Planning Board to study building height and setbacks for simplicity and flexibility. The Board discussed the heights and setbacks. Mr. Rothrock suggested that the subcommittee take a walking tour of Main Street so the members could see the different heights and setbacks currently in the CB district. The goal is to write an ordinance to preserve what we have, but allow for development.

Mr. Pegram made a motion to move forward with the Subcommittee taking a walking tour of the Central Business district. Mr. Pickett seconded. All members were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Rothrock will email the subcommittee to schedule the tour.

Other Business

Mr. Rothrock said that the Town Council wants the Board to continue working on the survey process and to include questions about allowing short term rentals in more districts. The Council adopted the Land Use Code. The Town is working with Mr. Tom Westall on customer service. Every town he has worked with had improved greatly. He also said that the Board should revisit the wind energy issue. Mr. Rothrock said that the Town Council approved allowing golf carts on the west side of Highway 321, the annexation of the Blowing Rock Conference Center, locating the Blowing Rock Fresh Market to Park Avenue from Wallingford and voted against allowing horse drawn carriages in town.

Mr. Rothrock updated the Board on the Streetscape project, drainage on and resurfacing Main Street. Ms. Roess asked if Wonderland Trail would be resurfaced when Main Street is. Mr. Rothrock said not at the same time, but it should be done soon thereafter. The Board discussed the progress of the Subway project and the potential of natural gas lines extending from Boone to Blowing Rock.

With no further business Ms. Roess made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Fairbetter. All members were in favor of the motion.

Adjourn

With no further business the Planning Board adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Chairman West

Tammy Bentley, Administrative Assistant