



P. O. Box 1809, Pittsboro, NC 27312-1809 • Phone: (919) 542-8200 •

Agriculture Advisory Board

Approved Minutes

Agriculture Advisory Board

June 9, 2015

Called to order, 7:05 pm

Present: Esta Cohen, Chair, Sam Groce (NCCES), Dr. J. Dykers, Terrill Ellington, Larry Harris, Cathy Jones, Tandy Jones, Robin Kohanowich, Thomas "Chip" Price, Bobby Tucker, Joseph Wachs

Members Absent: Justin Brooks, Sharon Day, Walter Petty, Ronnie Vaughn,

Diana Hales, Guest, Chatham County Commissioner, District 3

Guest speakers: BJ Copeland, chair of the planning board, Jason Sullivan, Director of County Planning and Hillary Pace, planner.

The meeting began with introductions followed by a presentation from BJ Copeland, chair of the planning board, Jason Sullivan, Director of County Planning and Hillary Pace, planner

County Commissioners have charged the planning board to develop regulations for the county land use plan. Hillary talked about a draft plan which sought public input and would include using the farmland protection plan. A three-part plan:

- gather info on existing material
- have extensive public meetings
- develop elements of the land use plan.

Sub-committee to look at alternatives to open-use zoning, this began prior to the current board of commissioners.

Options are:

- interim zoning
- do nothing
- extend traditional zoning
- open zoning
- combined options

A fact sheet defining each of these terms is to be developed. The pros and cons of each of these points are to be considered 6/16/15.

Current Land use regulations do have some jurisdiction over unzoned areas

Diane Hales pointed out that land use/zoning information is not readily apparent when looking at real estate /land parcels.

Cathy Jones asked if VAD designation is noted on real estate listings

The main Planning page for the county has a meeting link for schedules and information

The Planning board:

- Invites steering committee volunteers
- Help get the word out about meetings, encourage attendance

Jason Sullivan showed maps of zoned areas and current watershed regulations/requirements. River corridor district regulates land use for residential and non-residential.

Old Business (business meeting began 8:20)

Minutes from previous meeting, March 10 and April 14, 2015 were approved. Motion for approval by Cathy Jones, Tandy Jones^{2nd}; all approved

New Business

New Voluntary AG District Application for this month: Larry Harris; Gene Bailey. Motion for approval by Cathy Jones, Chip Price^{2nd}. Both approved.

Other new business:

Tandy Jones reported on his attendance at the planning board meeting sub-committee.

Diana Hales: Zoning/land use is a comprehensive process and can take a long time. Current pressures due to renewed growth and construction activity following the slow down during the economic downturn. . Chatham is one of the few counties in this area that is not zoned. Comprehensive plan is ideal, however there are short-term needs that are immediate.

Bobby Tucker asked about how the Ag ADV board could communicate the value of agriculture in Chatham to planning/zoning decision makers? Emphasize the importance of farms and agriculture in the overall economy of Chatham. Suggested the idea of branding for agricultural products grown in Chatham. (branding Chatham idea will move to the August 2015 agenda)

John Dykers and Sam Groce will follow up on co-dinner meeting proposal with EDC.

AG ADV BRD terms have expired for Justin Brooks and Robin Kohanowich.

NCCES: CCC: Sam Groce shared an update on the progress of the new building for the agriculture center. Jane Tripp has retired; funding secured for Karen Cousineau to increase her hours.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Robin Kohanowich