

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

December 6th, 2016, 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Ed Regan
Matt Alexander
Scott Evenson
Nicole Brown
JoAnn Beal
Melissa Star
Al Capehart
Roy Girolami
Don Wollum

Non-Voting Members Present

Jennifer Park Public Health
Department

Others Present

Guil Johnson, Alamance Co.
Parks and Open Space, Haw
River Trail Coordinator
Cara Coppola, Chatham Co.
Planning
Matt Day, TARPO

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
2 Chairman Ed Regan welcomed attendees, a quorum was reached.

- 3 2. Public Comment
4 No one from the general public provided comment.

5 Consent Agenda

- 6 3. Approval of Minutes from October 25th Regular Meeting
7 Matt Alexander moved to approve minutes, Scott Evenson seconded motion, and minutes were
8 approved unanimously.

9 Speaker Series

- 10 4. Presentation from Guil Johnson Haw River Association Trail Coordinator
11 Guil Johnson, Coordinator for the Haw River Association presented an overview of their History of
12 the Haw River beginning with the settlers living along the Haw since 1750. Haw River crossings were
13 discussed as well as names and locations of notable historic mills and water powered textile local
14 grain mill sites. Hydro Electric facilities throughout the western portion of NC in the 1930's and 40's
15 provided inexpensive electrical power that rendered water driven mill power obsolete by 1960. In
16 the two decades that followed, the remaining Haw River manufacturing uses for cotton weaving
17 mills and cloth dying essentially ended in 1980 with the EPA now in charge of water quality.
18 In the period 1990 through 2000, local economic conditions along the Haw saw little civic activity or
19 developments other than local community efforts to begin cleaning debris and land fill items and to

20 flush out fabric dyes in the sediment of the Haw River. With water quality now improving, local
21 fishing and canoeing began to attract local residents.

22 In 2006 Alamance County received a grant administered through the town of Graham for the
23 planning and mapping and physical inventory of assets to study and promote recreation use of the
24 Haw River. Today the Haw River Association has one full time staff and a large volunteer
25 organization for local trail and water access projects. In 2016, HRA received new funding for working
26 near the community of Saxapahaw to make a multi-use recreational area and continue with
27 improvements on the 70 mile walking trail along the Haw River. 2017 will mark start of construction
28 of a new multi-use park on an island just North of the Church Road Bridge.

29
30 Guil Johnson thought the future could see Chatham County becoming interested in enjoining the
31 Haw River Association bringing new recreational opportunities to the Haw River section that flows
32 through Chatham County.

33
34 TAC board members were then given an open question and answer period to ask their individual
35 questions to Guil Johnson who fielded all comments and gave answers to our Committee members.

36 **Informational Items**

37 5. Comprehensive Plan update from Staff

38 Cara Coppola, Chatham County Planning and TAC liaison provided updates on the
39 Comprehensive Plan as of Dec 5th, 2016. Provided was a printed PowerPoint from the last
40 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Steering Committee Meeting explaining the findings about existing
41 transportation conditions in the county. She mentioned that the TAC would need to ensure that a
42 representative from the committee should be present at the next Committee meeting as there will
43 be discussion on the transportation component of the plan.

44 TAC Chairman Ed Regan asked if TAC members would volunteer to attend the January 19th 2017
45 Comprehensive Plan work session where the transportation plan would be discussed. Don and Matt
46 volunteered to attend this meeting and report back to the TAC in February 2017 regularly scheduled
47 meeting.

48 Also upcoming, are the second round of public input meetings coming toward the end of February.

49 6. Transportation Update from Staff

50 Matt Day from TARPO spoke about projects (Siler City sidewalks and 751 improvements) that scored
51 well enough to possibly be listed in the Draft State Transportation Improvement Plan soon to be
52 released on Dec. 14, 2016.

53 Cara Coppola, Chatham County Planning gave a presentation on behalf of the DCHC MPO about the
54 DCHC MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan, gave information regarding where to submit
55 comments and collected input from the Committee on the Plan

56 7. Announcements Discussion Items and New Business

57 Ed Regan and Cara Coppola asked for specific transportation agenda items for our February
58 2017 meeting, and the TAC agenda for next year.

59 8. Adjourn

60 Ed Regan opened the discussion to adjourn. Matt Alexander supported the motion, Scott Evenson
61 seconded the motion to adjourn, and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned
62 at 8:05 PM.

63 Next meeting: February 28th, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom (across the parking lot
64 from the Agricultural Building Auditorium) in Pittsboro