

Macon County Planning Board Minutes

APRIL 15, 2010

Call to Order: Chairman Lewis Penland called meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Members: Lewis Penland, Mike Gruberman, Mark West, Alan Marsh, Karl Gillespie, Larry Stenger, Evelyn Owens, Bobby Koppers, Al Slagle, Susan Ervin.

Macon County Staff: Derek Roland, Jack Morgan, Matt Mason, Kim Hedden

Media: Franklin Press, Macon News

Approval of Minutes: Allan Marsh made motion to approve minutes. Karl Gillespie seconded this motion.

Public: No public comment at this time

Liaison Reports:

Transportation Steering Committee- Mark West reported this committee was moving along well. Gillespie commented at the last meeting reports were disseminated that were inclusive of traffic counts and accident statistics in certain areas.

Slope Development-

Macon County Watershed: Watershed Council did not meet in the month of April.

Housing/Transportation (Comp Plan)- Ervin reported that the group has finished drafting the transportation principles. The group is now focusing on the housing recommendations.

Public Input (Comp Plan)-

Economic Development/Public Services (Comp. Plan)- Chris Hanners informed the board that this committee is currently trying to get recommendations previously made by the EDC. This committee will begin to address public services at the next meeting.

Health/Seniors/Childcare (Comp. Plan) – Roland reported that this committee has the recommendations complete. The committee will meet one final time to polish recommendations and at that time they will be ready for presentation to the planning board.

Environmental/ Land Use (Comp Plan)- Roland reported that the committee was moving along well. Josh pope and Justin Setser will present the committee with overlays at the next meeting. Slagle informed the board that Deborah Sloan from the department of agriculture also addressed the group at the last meeting. Sloan informed the committee of new initiatives to preserve farmland that are presently occurring in the agricultural community. The committee will try to begin putting together recommendations at the next meeting.

Education and Recreation- Larry Stenger reported the committee is having their 4th meeting on the 26th. Hopefully the school architect will be able to attend this meeting. Stenger reported that overall the committee is functioning well. Technology will undoubtedly play an important role in the recommendations from this committee.

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business: Commissioner Kupperts informed the board that upon discussion with Chairman Ronnie Beale, it is now time for the planning board to begin developing a steep slope ordinance for Macon County. Kupperts reminded the board that this would be a lengthy process. Kupperts felt the expertise of the Slope sub-committee should be called in for this process to assist the planning board. Public input is crucial to this process and the ordinance should be reflective of what the community wants it to be. A process much like the one used for the subdivision ordinance should be replicated for this ordinance. Kupperts relayed that he and Beale want the planning board focused on the creation of this ordinance entirely and to make sure that public input is an important component throughout the process.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 22 at the Environmental Resource Center. This meeting will be a joint meeting of the Slope Development Strategies sub-committee and the Macon County Planning Board to discuss the next steps in the ordinance writing process.

Public Session: Mr. Sullivan encouraged the board to bring on resources that consider the technicalities of slopes such as engineers. People who construct structures on steep slopes should also be consulted throughout the process. Maintenance is another issue that must be discussed. If a property on a slope is not properly maintained, it will fail. Sullivan also encouraged the board to consider the bottleneck that will be created by adding additional ordinances and man hours when “business picks up again”. Sullivan does not want to see another layer of accountability if people are already doing it the right way. They should not have to waist there time going back through a county ordinance.

Next Meeting Date: April 22, 2010 @ the Environmental Resources Building

Meeting Adjourned: Allan Marsh made motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm by Chairman Lewis Penland.