

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
PLANNING BOARD
TOWN HALL - 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET
DECEMBER 17, 2012

The Planning Board held a regular meeting on Monday, December 17, 2012. Members present were Danny Wingate, Shell Isenburg, Jon Feichter, Don Stephenson, Lee Bouknight, Bucky Dykes, Marty Prevost and Chairman Patrick McDowell. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson, Town Manager Marcy Onieal, and Administrative Assistant Eddie Ward. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairman McDowell.

Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2012

Danny Wingate moved, seconded by Don Stephenson, to approve the minutes of November 19, 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Haywood Public Transit System

Paul Benson introduced Susan Anderson, Transportation Director of Haywood Public Transit. Mr. Benson asked her to talk about Haywood Public Transit and the need for drop-off improvements. Ms. Anderson stated that Haywood Public Transit is a rural system and they are considered a demand response system. They are not set up like an urban system, which goes by the same pick up points several times a day. She said last year Haywood Public Transit served fifty five-thousand trips with 38.6 percent of the trips being medically oriented and the rest being general purpose.

Haywood Public Transit operates five days a week, 6:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M., with twenty-two vehicles covering all of Haywood County. Haywood Public Transit deals with all walks of life and the biggest challenges do not come from the downtown area, but from the bigger box stores, where people are waiting fifteen to thirty minutes in the busy walkways to be picked up. She said shelters at the big box stores would simplify the process for their drivers because many times they have to go inside looking for passengers.

Ms. Anderson stated that two year grants are available for funding of shelters, with the state of North Carolina paying 50 percent of the capital cost, and the community municipality paying the other 50 percent. She has just finished grants for the period of 2014 - 2016. There is a grant through North Carolina Department of Transportation that requires a plan approval by the Town Planning Board. If any state or federal monies are used in establishing shelters, they would automatically be considered public systems, which means any route will be open to the general public.

Ms. Philan Medford, 99 Pisgah Drive, Waynesville, NC asked the Board to keep in mind that anyone can use the Public Transit, and this contributes to their independence.

Mr. Benson stated he would contact the Metropolitan Planning Organization about regulations and grants for public shelters.

Chairman McDowell thanked Ms. Anderson for attending the meeting and said the Public Transit System and shelters would be an ongoing issue in the future. He felt it would be appropriate to obtain more information before moving forward.

Lake Junaluska Area Zoning

Mr. Benson introduced Town Manager Marcy Onieal to the Planning Board. Manager Onieal wanted to speak with the Board concerning the potential merger between the Town of Waynesville and Lake Junaluska. She said this merger might be happening faster than anticipated, with a special bill allowing this merger being introduced to the General Assembly in January 2013.

Manager Onieal stated that Junaluska and the Town of Waynesville had been having public meetings and discussions for eight months. After spending this time in an educational fashion, receiving public comments, and examining different options, both Lake Junaluska and the Town of Waynesville agreed the merger was best for the long term health of their community.

One of the major points of interest from the residents of Lake Junaluska is the zoning regulations. Currently, they do not have any zoning regulations but they do have some deed restrictions which will remain in place. They have no planning staff, and are unfamiliar with how the processes work. One of the things Manager Onieal has discussed with their Board is the possibility of meeting with the Town Planning Board to discuss what zoning would involve in Lake Junaluska. If a merger occurs, the zoning regulations would have to be in place.

Chairman McDowell stated the Planning Board would be happy to meet with the Lake Junaluska Council and answer any questions they might have. Manager Onieal said the arrangements would be made for a meeting in the near future.

With no further business, a motion was made by Marty Prevost and seconded by Danny Wingate to adjourn at 6:11 P.M.. The motion was approved unanimously.

Patrick McDowell
Chairman

Eddie Ward
Administrative Assistant

