



Oconee County Board of Zoning Appeals

415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

Telephone: 864-638-4218

Fax: 864-638-4168

Minutes

6:00 P.M., Thursday, April 28, 2011

Oconee County Council Chambers

Members Present:

Mr. Hughes
Mr. Winters
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Lee
Mr. Littlefield
Mr. Reckert
Mr. McKee

Mr. Yancey Green (Planner)

Media Present:

Ray Chandler (Anderson Independent)

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairman Lee called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes (March 10, 2011 Meeting)

Mr. Littlefield made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Item 3. Special Exception Hearing for Group Residential Facility

Statement of matter to be heard: (Staff)

“The Special Exception hearing tonight stems from a land use application to open Whetstone Academy, a boy’s boarding school proposed to be located off of Brian’s Lake Road in Mountain Rest. The application was submitted on April 11, 2011 by Sharon Stricker, agent for Whetstone Academy.

As proposed, the school will initially enroll less than 10 students, and utilize existing structures on the property.

All application fees have been paid, and the required legal ad was published in the Seneca Daily Journal on April 14, 2011. Notification of the hearing was sent to

adjacent property owners by mail, and signs were also posted at the site more than 15 days in advance.

The appeal to the Board for the Special Exception is being made pursuant to the Group Residential Facility standards, Chapter 32 Article 5 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances. A copy of the standards was sent to the members.

After having reviewed the submitted materials and considered all identified issues, staff feels that the application meets the standards set forth in the ordinance, and the appeal for a Special Exception is reasonable.”

Presentation by Applicant (Ms. Stricker)

Ms. Stricker spoke about the character of the proposed school and addressed the issues of traffic, nuisance to neighbors, safety of local residents, safety of the residents of the facility, and that the Whetstone Academy had satisfied the standards of Chapter 32 Article V of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances.

Discussion by the Board followed.

Public Comment

Chairman Lee recognized those who were in favor of Whetstone Academy: Ms. Elizabeth MacFarlane, Ms. Rebecca Queen, Mr. Butch Clay who each addressed the Board.

Chairman Lee recognized those who had concerns regarding Whetstone Academy: Mr. Don Burton, Ms. Sherrie Holcomb, Ms. Susie Cornelius, Ms. Alberta Sullivan. Ms. Stricker addressed the concerns of the citizens as they arose.

Consideration by Board

Mr. Nichols made a motion that the board delay their decision for one week, so that the Board would have time to consider what was heard. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion to approve the Special Exception to approve the land use permit for Whetstone Academy in accordance with Oconee County Code of Ordinance Chapter 32 Article V. Mr. Reckert seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Nichols voting against the measure.

Item 4. Chairman Lee adjourned the meeting.