



Oconee County Planning Department

415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

Telephone: 864-638-4218
Fax: 864-638-4168

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MINUTES PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING March 10, 2008

The Oconee County Planning Commission held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 11, 2007 in the Council Chambers of the Oconee County Administrative Complex at 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691.

Members Present: Tommy Abbott, (Chairman)
Ryan Honea
Howard Moore
Rex Ramsay
Randy Abbott
Bill Evatt
Bill Nelson

Art Holbrooks (Planning Director)
Aaron Gadsby (County Planner)

Media Present:
Peter Kent (WGOG)
Bret McLaughlin (Seneca Journal)

Item 1: Call to Order- Chairman Abbott called the meeting to order.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes - The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed by the Commission - no changes were made. Mr. Honea made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Ramsay seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 7-0.

Item 3: Public Comment Session –

Mr. Jerry Barnett thanked the Commission for making a stand and getting behind the “silent majority” regarding zoning. Mr. Barnett also commented regarding the problems with Lake Keowee.

Ms. Donna Linsin showed the Commission a blank check and discussed how the zoning enabling ordinance was also blank, stating that it would allow the government to fill things in after the fact.

Ms. Silissa Bischof spoke to the Commission regarding problems occurring around her home in Cherokee Gardens, and asked the Commission to help by creating new land use restrictions.

Ms. Sherry Watson asked the Commission to help protect what she has ‘worked hard for’, and to be the leaders Oconee County needs.

Mr. Tom Markovich spoke to the Commission regarding the community input aspect of the zoning enabling ordinance. Mr. Markovich asked the Commission to make sure that the definitions are specific and clear so that everyone is on the same page.

Mr. Paul Reckert thanked the Commission for amending the draft future land use map, and asked that if a lake overlay is added to include Lake Hartwell.

Mr. John Little thanked the Commission for having an opportunity to speak and asked the Commission not to include a lake overlay in any ordinance. (Please see attached comments)

B.J. Littleton spoke to the Commission regarding the abuse a zoning ordinance would cause.

Item 4: Presentation by Steve MacLeod – Mr. Steve MacLeod presented the Commission with information on why the AQD feel a Lake Overlay is needed in the Zoning Ordinance (slides attached). Mr. Evatt mentioned that the Overlay needed to include Lake Hartwell as well. Mr. Honea also mentioned that he feels if a Lake Overlay is included it needs to take in Lake Hartwell also.

Item 5: Discussion of Citizen Initiated Zoning Process –Mr. Holbrooks reviewed the citizen initiated zoning process with the Commission. Mr. Honea mentioned that property owners needed to be notified at the beginning of the process, not at the end. Mr. Moore questioned how those voting on the map would know what standards would apply. Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that the standards would be specified in the adopted ordinance prior to the any survey. The Commission asked the Planning Department to draft complete procedures for the Citizen Input for the next Planning Commission Meeting. (See attached Citizen Input Outline)

Item 6: Discussion of Capital Improvement Plan – Mr. Holbrooks briefed the Commission on the latest status of Capital Improvement Projects within the County, noting that departmental requests for 2008-09 have not yet been made public.

Old Business – There was no old business.

Item 7: New Business – There was no new businesses.

Item 8: Adjourn