



**Prince Edward County Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2014  
7:30 pm**

Members Present:      William Porterfield, Chairman                      Chris Mason, Vice Chairman  
                                 Donald Gilliam    Jack Leatherwood  
                                 W. Parker Terry    John Townsend  
                                 Cannon Watson

Absent:                      Robert “Bobby” Jones, Preston L. Hunt,      Mark Jenkins

Staff Present:              Wade Bartlett, County Administrator

The May 20, 2014 meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Porterfield.

**Approval of Minutes: April 15, 2014:**

Chairman Porterfield requested any changes or corrections made known; one correction was necessary. Chairman Porterfield then declared the April 15, 2014 meeting minutes approved with corrections.

**Amendment to Zoning Ordinance – Signs**

Chairman Porterfield led a comparison between different districts and the sign requirements. Commissioner Townsend distributed a matrix he developed listing the sign regulations in each zoning district. Discussion regarding political signs and current regulations governing their placement followed.

A recommendation was made to amend the Temporary Signs definition to *“Temporary signs such as event signs or political election signs must be removed within 15 days of the event or election.”* Discussion followed. Mr. Bartlett advised that State Code will be reviewed to ascertain inclusion of the item. Chairman Porterfield stated the item will not be included if the County Attorney determines it cannot be included; the Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Terry made a motion to add the following sentence to Section 3-104.18(d): *“That political election signs cannot be erected any earlier than 30 days before the event or election.”* The motion carried:

Aye: Donald Gilliam  
Clifford Jack Leatherwood  
Chris Mason  
W. Parker Terry, Jr.  
John Townsend, III  
Cannon Watson

Nay: W. W. Porterfield

Absent: Preston C. Hunt  
Mark Jenkins  
Robert M. Jones

Mr. Bartlett reminded the Commissioners the Board of Supervisors had concerns about limiting height and size of signs along four-lane highways such as Route 360 and Route 460, even in A1 and A2 zones. Discussion followed and no changes were recommended.

Discussion followed on the differences between regulations regarding square footage specified for signs in the Agricultural Conservation District and the Agricultural Residential District. Mr. Bartlett stated in an Agricultural Conservation District, the setting is more pastoral and fewer businesses are permitted in A1 than in A2. More restrictions are placed on businesses in A1. Discussion followed. It was also determined that “Projecting signs” should be made uniform in Sections 3-104.5 and 3.104.7 to “24 square feet.”

Commissioner Mason questioned Section 3-104.1 8(b) regarding protection of a citizen wishing to have a flag in his front yard with his name or a picture on it, in which he is not in a development; he questioned whether the phrase “or other similar entity” covers single family homes. He also questioned “flagpoles must conform to the location and height in the district in which they are located.” Chairman Porterfield stated development is “any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, the placement of manufactured homes; streets, and other paving; utilities; filling, grading and excavation; mining; dredging; and drilling operations.” Discussion followed.

A grammatical correction to Section 3-104.7 was suggested, to read “This district is intended to be the location of most new residential development in the County. *Agriculture*, forestry and related uses are also allowed within A2 Districts.” The Commissioners concurred.

A grammatical correction was suggested in the regulation that “no more than six feet higher than the business building *to which it relates*” in Sections 3-104.7 and 3-104.15. The Commissioners concurred.

Chairman Porterfield made a motion to adopt the amended language as developed for the Sign Ordinance Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and advertise a public hearing for the June 2014 meeting, with one contingent phrase which will be addressed by the County Attorney for its legality; the motion carried:

Aye: Donald Gilliam  
Clifford Jack Leatherwood  
Chris Mason  
W. W. Porterfield  
W. Parker Terry, Jr.  
John Townsend, III  
Cannon Watson

Nay: None

Absent: Preston C. Hunt  
Mark Jenkins  
Robert M. Jones

**Review of Board of Supervisors Actions**

Mr. Bartlett stated that Southside Electric has requested a Special Use Permit to put a tower in one of their substations on Loman Road. There will be no site work. The site plan was approved; this will come before the Planning Commission in June. Southside Electric owns 16 acres.

Mr. Bartlett added that Verizon recently came in but the site plan has not yet been received. They wish to put up a cell tower on Raymond Chinault's property by the Debtors Prison. It is proposed to be 175' tall. They may not be ready for presentation to the Planning Commission by June.

Mr. Bartlett stated no Planning Commission issues have come before the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Porterfield questioned the status of the quarry; Mr. Bartlett said DMME required Luck Stone to sink one more test well approximately a month ago. Once the results are received, they will hold their public hearing. Unless there is a technical reason not to place it, DMME will have no reason to not allow the construction to begin. Luck Stone will remove the over-burden and will bring in a portable quarry operation and will have it up and running quickly. The highway entrance will be installed quickly. It will most likely be in operation by this fall or later. There will be 25 jobs created at this site.

**Old Business**

(None)

**New Business**

(None)

Chairman Porterfield declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**Next Meeting: June 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.**