



**Prince Edward County Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2014
7:30 pm**

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

Absent: Robert “Bobby” Jones

Staff Present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator

The August 19, 2014 meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Porterfield.

Approval of Minutes: July 15, 2014:

Chairman Porterfield requested any changes or corrections made known; being none, he declared the July 19, 2014 meeting minutes approved as circulated.

Special Use Permit – Charles M. Neathery

Chairman Porterfield stated that due to a clerical error, the public hearing held in July did not meet state requirements and will have to be held again in September. He stated that while it is not a public hearing, a discussion of plans and concerns can be heard at this meeting.

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, stated there had been some question regarding the right of way on the property. He reviewed the findings of his research, stating at least as far back as 1885, there was a right of egress and ingress on the property. He added that in 1974, C. L. Gibbs had a survey done showing where a small part of the right of way is located; it does not show the entire easement.

Mr. Charles M. Neathery reviewed his request to operate a military simulation complex with the use of airsoft and pellet guns on his property at 4722 Sandy River Road, Rice, Virginia. He stated he and his grandson would be operating the venture. The purpose is to provide a team-building military type exercise facility; the participants will use the woods and by the hay bales that were set up for the games,

and reviewed specifications regarding the guns that will be used. He stated the hours of operation, potentially, would be on weekends from 8:00 a.m. until dusk, and possibly during the week for corporate team building, year round. He added that maps would be prepared to specify the game boundaries, rules would be posted and there would be marshals for every 5-10 participants. An area is designated for parking, where the guns would have barrel bags on and clips out; this would be mandatory in the parking and staging areas. It was estimated that there would be approximately 100 people participating and Porta-potties would be on-site. Head gear is mandatory for the participants; insurance has already been secured. Discussion followed regarding the layout of the land and the need for emergency vehicles; the Neatherys stated golf carts would be used to transport participants to the parking and staging areas in the event there is a problem. The game marshals are firefighters and EMTs or have military experience.

Discussion followed on the right of way and the easement, and the concerns raised by the Dodsons, such as injury to his family members and damage to his property, and unrestricted access to the right of way. The Neatherys stated there would be a designated phone number that the Dotson's could use to contact them when a game is being run. The Neatherys would stop the game to allow the Dotsons safe access to the right of way.

Chairman Porterfield stated the Planning Commission will hold another Public Hearing in September regarding this special use request, and asked if the two families can try to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement prior to the September meeting. The Commissioners were asked to visit the property to obtain a better understanding of the concerns.

Review of Board of Supervisors Actions

Mr. Bartlett reported the Board of Supervisors approved the Special Use Permit requested by Southside Electric Cooperative for the wireless communication tower, and the Special Use Permit requested by Stanley Lyles to expand the Briery Creek Lake Getaway R.V. Park.

Old Business

(None)

New Business

(None)

Mr. Bartlett announced the hiring of Mr. Robert (Rob) Fowler, Planning Director, who will begin on September 2, 2014. He is from Lynchburg, and will be attending the next Planning Commission meeting.

Chairman Porterfield declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.