



**Prince Edward County Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2015
7:00 pm**

Members Present: John Townsend, Chairman Chris Mason, Vice Chairman
 Donald Gilliam Preston L. Hunt
 Mark Jenkins Robert “Bobby” Jones
 John “Jack” W. Peery, Jr. John Prengaman

Absent: Jack Leatherwood Cannon Watson

Staff Present: Rob Fowler, Director of Planning & Community Development

Chairman Townsend called the May 19, 2015 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: March 17, 2015:

Chairman Townsend requested any changes or corrections be made known.

Chairman Townsend made a motion to approve the March 17, 2015 minutes as presented; the motion carried:

Aye: Preston C. Hunt Nay: (None)
 Donald Gilliam
 Mark Jenkins
 Robert M. Jones
 Chris Mason
 John “Jack” W. Peery, Jr.
 John Prengaman
 John Townsend, III

Absent: Clifford Jack Leatherwood, Cannon Watson

In Re: Public Hearing – Special Use Permit, Grace Chapel Ministries, Inc.

Chairman Townsend said this is the time and date advertised for a Public Hearing to receive citizen input prior to considering a request for a Special Use Permit to install one freestanding electronic sign on property identified as Tax Map Parcel 021-A-10C, located at 45 Simpson Road, Prospect, VA. This is an A1, Agricultural Conservation District. Notice of this public hearing was advertised according to law in the Wednesday, May 6, 2015 and Wednesday, May 13, 2015 editions of THE FARMVILLE HERALD, a newspaper published in the County of Prince Edward.

Chairman Townsend opened the public hearing.

Mr. Rob Fowler, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated the County has received a Special Use Permit application to permit the installation of one electronic sign located at 45 Simpson Road on Tax Map Parcel 021-A-10C, owned by Grace Chapel Ministries, Inc. The sign will be approximately 15 feet in height, 40 square feet in area and contain a 32 square foot electronic message board. The sign will be located at the corner of Highway 460 and Simpson Road. Mr. Fowler stated the property is currently being used as a church which is an allowed use in the A1, Agricultural Conservation District; Section 3-104.5 of the Prince Edward County Zoning Ordinance permits electronic signs by Special Use Permit.

Mr. Fowler stated there are no staff objections and no opposition from surrounding property owners; there was one inquiry as to its location. Mr. Fowler stated the *Code of Virginia*, Title 33.2 – Highways and Other Surface Transportation Systems, Section 33.2-1216 sets forth several conditions: there must be at least a four-second message cycle restriction, the sign must have an auto-dimming capability, and the sign may only display messages that pertain to the current permitted uses of the building.

Discussion followed on the date of installation. Mr. Fowler stated that, if approved, the issue will go before the Board of Supervisors at the June 9 meeting; following that approval, the permit can be obtained the next day.

There being no one further wishing to speak, Chairman Townsend closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Prengaman made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit to allow Grace Chapel Ministries to install one electronic sign on property identified as Tax Map Parcel #021-A-10C, located at 45 Simpson Road, Prospect, Virginia, and commonly known as Grace Chapel Ministries, Inc. with the following conditions: 1) the sign comply with Virginia Code Title 33.2 Highways and Other Surface Transportation Systems, Section 33.2-1216; 2) the sign must have at a minimum a Four-Second cycle before changing the sign message; 3) the sign must have automatic dimming capabilities; and 4) the sign must only display messages that pertain to the current permitted uses of the building; the motion carried:

Aye:	Preston C. Hunt Donald Gilliam Mark Jenkins Robert M. Jones Chris Mason John “Jack” W. Peery, Jr. John Prengaman John Townsend, III	Nay:	(None)
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Absent: Clifford Jack Leatherwood, Cannon Watson

Review of Board of Supervisors Actions

Mr. Fowler advised the Commissioners the amended Bylaws of the Planning Commission were approved by the Board of Supervisors. He stated the Special Use Permit for The Executive Inn was approved and the sign is being manufactured.

Old Business

(None)

New Business

Mr. Fowler announced there is a joint meeting of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors for a public hearing regarding a Special Use Permit application for Ellington Energy Services, Inc. at the Pump & Pantry for a lighted sign. He said renovations are in progress and the public hearing has been scheduled for June 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to meet time constraints set by the franchise.

Mr. Fowler suggested the sign regulations in the A1 and A2 districts remain the same, requiring the Special Use Permits, and proposed amendments be worked on regarding signs in the Commercial and Industrial districts. Discussion followed.

Mr. Fowler then stated there has been an on-going violation regarding junk cars on Hard Times Road; the property owner has complied and the case has been dropped. This property will be inspected from time to time to ensure it is maintained according to code.

Chairman Townsend made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Prensaman and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Preston C. Hunt	Nay:	(None)
	Donald Gilliam		
	Mark Jenkins		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Chris Mason		
	John "Jack" W. Peery, Jr.		
	John Prensaman		
	John Townsend, III		

Absent: Clifford Jack Leatherwood, Cannon Watson

the meeting was recessed at 7:15 p.m. until June 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2015