

BLAND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2023

Members Present:

Jerry Mercer, Elmer Chewning, Ron Sevenot, Jim Pruett, Meagan Bradshaw, John Dodson, Randy Johnson, Jim Baker

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Joel K. Cagle, Planning Commission Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:00 PM, Chairman Mercer called the meeting of the Bland County Planning Commission to order at the Bland County Courthouse; Bland, Virginia. The Invocation was given and allegiance was pledged to the flag of our country by everyone present.

ROLL CALL

Planning Commission Secretary Cagle took the roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mercer invited a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 3, 2023. Commissioner Bradshaw made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 3, 2023; Commissioner Stevenot provided the second, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Bland County Comprehensive Plan was discussed. It was explained that the plan must be reviewed and approved every five years. This plan has reached and exceeded its life span, to ensure the plan was current, it was asked that the commission review the existing plan, make a recommendation for approval to the BOS; once BOS approval is obtained, this corrects the out of date plan. The Comprehensive Plan update will begin after that.

A public hearing was held with one person speaking. Dr. Ray Hicks spoke on just being interested in what the County was doing. There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

A motion to recommend the BOS approve the current plan was made by Commissioner Dodson with a second provided by Commissioner Stevenot. The motion passed unanimously.

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NEW BUSINESS

-An application to re-zone and obtain a CUP on Tax Map 32-A-12 from Agricultural to Commercial and a CUP to operate a Recreational Facility was brought before the Commission. Mr. Hussein Mrad proposes to renovate the current Boy Scout Camp into a Glamping site, under the Eupepsia Brand. It was discussed that the site will consist of 20 Yurts and a Mess Hall. Some of the existing buildings will be demolished, while other would be renovated to meet the needs of the project.

It was requested the provided site plan provide more data, including but not limited to more distances to property lines and other structures. Also asked of Mr. Mrad was a Business Plan for the project. A site visit was requested by the Commission. This will be scheduled by Mr. Cagle through Kevin Sullivan.

After much debate, a motion to recommend a public hearing be held at the next stated Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Bradshaw with a second provided by Commissioner Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

-None

ITEMS TABLED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

-None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Planning Commission at this time, Commissioner Bradshaw made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Baker provided the second, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel K. Cagle- Secretary
Planning Commission
County of Bland