

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT PLANNING BOARD

October 1, 2024

Whitsett Town Hall

The meeting of the Whitsett Planning Board which was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 1, 2024, at the Whitsett Town Hall. Those in attendance were Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne, Board members Lane Williamson, Bob Handwerk, Patrick Hickey and Dr. Matt Martin, Council Member Liaison Jerry Rice. Also in attendance was Barbara York, Town Clerk.

Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne called the meeting to order at 6:00, noted that a quorum was present and asked for a volunteer to do the invocation. Jerry Rice gave the invocation.

REGULAR MEETING

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Chairperson Karen Horne asked if there were any speakers from the floor and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Minutes

- Chairperson Horne asked if there was a motion to approve the August 8, 2024, minutes. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Planning Board Member Dr. Matt Martin and seconded by Board Member Patrick Hickey. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Commercial Architectural Ordinance Suggestions

- Chairperson Horne stated that she had emailed all the Board members a copy of the current ordinance for review and for them to bring any new ideas or suggestions to this meeting. Board member Lane Williamson researched some different commercial buildings and strip malls to get some ideas. She liked commercial structures like Stoney Creek Veterinary and Pet Lodge, saying that they had a country appeal to them. There are also some appealing architectural designs in businesses in Boone, Banner Elk, Asheville, and Chimney Rock. It was decided to table this topic until the next meeting because some members did not get the email with the original ordinance. There was also some discussion about possible ways to change the location and size of our post office. Dr. Martin suggested the Town write a letter to our congressmen and senators requesting they address the postal service location and size in Whitsett due to the major increase in postal customers in our town. Patrick Hickey suggested getting some information from Ken at the Whitsett Post Office that would back up our request in this letter. The board also discussed whether we are looking at actually trying to increase the number of businesses in our town. What kind of businesses would we like to see in our community? Chairperson Karen Horne said she would reach out to DOT to come and do a presentation on their future plans for Highway 70 to see what needs to happen with our Highway Business. Some visions of what these businesses could look like were shared among the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Topics from Planning Board Members

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Planning Board member Patrick Hickey made a motion to adjourn. Lane Williamson seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Planning Board is scheduled for November 5, 2024, at 6:00p.m. at the Whitsett Town Hall.

_____/S/_____
Chairperson Karen Horne

_____/S/_____
Vice Chairperson Lane Williamson