

**Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Pete Reich, George Jack, Director of Planning & Zoning Mary Ann Skilling.

Meeting called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the May 19, 2014 & June 16, 2014 Planning & Zoning Meeting minutes will be tabled until the next meeting due to quorum not in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

MPCA Annual Conference:

Discussion was held for the conference October 16-17, 2014 at Solomon's Island, MD. Topics include wind energy, TMDL/credit rating, Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund, Basic what-you-need-to-know about being a planner, Home business occupancy, Infill growth & parking, and Sustainable Communities Tax Credits. The Infill Growth and parking is the new process that is being brought up through the State of Maryland, infill investment in downtown communities. Sustainable Communities Tax Credits is more a Commissioner item, but it's nice to know for the Planning Commission. Wind energy: at one time Commissioner Brown had mentioned putting them at the Town Park because of the wind there, but nothing ever came from that.

Mr. Reich explained four or five years ago I went to the Maryland Planning Commission meeting that talked about wind energy on the Eastern Shore. They had maps of where you could locate them and we weren't in it, we're not in an area that has enough sustainable wind.

Discussion continued you may be able to provide energy just for the Town Park, but it would make more sense to put in solar energy. However, the only thing with solar is we're not in the grid system so we could light with solar but we couldn't sell any energy overage, due to no electric service there. We've had an estimate of over a million dollars as the VA won't let us tie into their system.

Discussion continued about the upcoming convention, some of the topics are really good if anyone wants to go but there isn't enough money for all to go. Someone should go and convey the information to the rest of the board members. There are issues on the agenda that are important, to understand TMDLs (total daily maximum loads), pollutant loads going in the Bay, and how they're going to start using credits, trading credits for the Town, maybe the County.

Mr. Jack agreed it is important and I have asked how to get the information if I don't go to the meeting. My point was if we can get a packet of the information that is being presented we could then share it at our meeting. We wouldn't get the input, we couldn't ask the questions, but I think they would want us to have this information and I know they're designed to have a big meeting to bring people together and I understand why, we've attended before, but afterwards it is a good idea to capture the information to see if it's important or if it pertains to something we're working on.

Discussion continued that all information should be added on their website afterwards for review by anyone interested in the topics. Attendance is a good networking effort. You meet people; you get to talk to other Planning Commission members. After the meeting, maybe someone from the office could find out where to get the information. It would be nice reading. Like you said, not everyone gets to go and I can understand why they get together. You do gain a lot by attending and learn a lot when you have interaction with the speakers and able to ask questions. Some of the topics are interesting but some are topics you could get information on and understand. TMDLs are not the most exciting with a lot of information online now. They're more relevant if you're thinking about Perryville and how potentially our TMDLs are going to be reduced. That's relevant both to the planning office and you as Commissioners because that means you're not going to do a whole lot of development.

Mr. Jack replied I think we should have a budget for at least one person to go and then we get feedback from them even if it's an email and if it's the same person all the time, so be it, or if there are two people, pick someone who hasn't been before. Three hundred dollars for one person to go, I don't see that as a bad investment if someone wants to go. I would want to go next time, or if not, someone else could.

Mr. Reich indicated we need to have a decision before the 29th because you have to mail your money in for who wants to go and to get the hotel at the reduced rate. I am interested. The payoff for this is a lot of information and I don't think there are any dual sessions this time.

Ms. Skilling commented I would like to be able to say the Planning Commission members would like to be going to these, even if it's just one member, and actually allows more credence to be included in the budget. We do have a category in the budget for conventions under Planning & Zoning, it's not under the Planning Commission. It is used for various conferences throughout the year, such as the APA or MML at Ocean City. Again, if you want to go there is funding to allow that to happen and we can offer the opportunity to the other members too.

Mr. Reich stated let's have Ms. Battaglia poll everybody to email back saying whether they want to go or not. I'm of a feeling that someone from the Planning Commission needs to go just to see what is going on and to represent the Town of Perryville and Cecil County.

Adjournment:

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianna M. Battaglia
Planning & Zoning Coordinator