

**Town of Amherst
Planning Commission Minutes
October 7, 2015**

A meeting of the Town of Amherst Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson June Driskill in the Council Chambers of the new Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street at 7:30 PM on October 7, 2015. It was noted that a quorum was present as indicated below:

A Kevin Belcher	P William Jones
P June Driskill	P Kenneth Bunch
A Ted Finney	P Rachel Thompson
A Clifford Hart	

Town Manager Jack Hobbs was present in his capacity as Secretary to the Commission.

Minutes from the September 2, 2015 Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried 4-0 according to the following:

Kevin Belcher	Absent	William Jones	Aye
June Driskill	Aye	Kenneth Bunch	Aye
Ted Finney	Absent	Rachel Thompson	Aye
Clifford Hart	Absent		

Urban Development Area Project

Mike Callahan from Renaissance Planning Group/Charlottesville came forward to discuss the proposed Urban Development Area project. The tasks involved in the project, how the project would unfold, desired outcomes and a series of local and fresh ideas were discussed. It was understood that the Town Council would be asked to approve the contract for the project on October 14.

Rt. 60 Sidewalk Project

The Secretary reported that Amherst County has taken the lead in applying for monies under VDOT's new "House Bill 2" process, and VDOT has taken the lead on applying under the Highway Safety Improvement Program process. If approved under either, sidewalk would be installed from the traffic circle to Second Street along U.S. Route 60 and Washington Street.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments:

The Secretary reported that the Town Council has scheduled its hearing on the real estate sign, definition of variance and powers of the Board of Zoning Appeals ordinance amendments for October 14 at 7:00 PM.

Sign Ordinance

The Secretary reported that it has come to the Town's attention that it's ordinance that regulates political signs conflicts

with the Code of Virginia and "content based" sign regulations might be inconsistent with the First Amendment. The situation is being reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Patteson Variance

The Secretary Manager reported that John Patteson's variance application had been denied by the Board of Zoning Appeals but Mr. Patteson has appealed the matter to the circuit court.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM on a motion by Mrs. Thompson that was seconded by Mr. Bunch and carried 4-0 according to the following:

Kevin Belcher	Absent	William Jones	Aye
June Driskill	Aye	Kenneth Bunch	Aye
Ted Finney	Absent	Rachel Thompson	Aye
Clifford Hart	Absent		

June Driskill, Chairperson

Attest: _____