

**Town of Amherst
Planning Commission Minutes
January 2, 2020**

A meeting of the Town of Amherst Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson June Driskill in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street at 7:00 PM on January 2, 2020.

It was noted that a quorum was present as indicated below:

P	June Driskill	P	William Jones
A	Kevin Belcher	P	Anne Webster Day
A	Ted Finney	P	Clifford Hart
P	Janice N. Wheaton		

Town Manager Sara Carter and Clerk of Council Vicki Hunt, in her capacity as Secretary to the Commission, were present.

James Ganey, 504 Waughs Ferry Road, Amherst, VA, came forward with a concern over his inability to build an approximate 32x40 foot pole barn for storage of a boat, camper, truck and other equipment in his preferred location due to a zoning ordinance provision that does not allow accessory structures in the front yard of a residential property, as defined by a line extending across the front of the primary structure.

Town Manager Carter explained that a variance could not be granted for this particular situation and focus by the Commissioners should remain on the effect of any ordinance change on all properties located in the Town.

After discussion, by consensus of the Commissioners no changes allowing for any accessory structure to be built past the front line of a primary structure located on any residentially zoned property in the Town will be made in the zoning ordinances.

The minutes from the December 4, 2019, Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried 4-1-2 according to the following:

June Driskill	Aye	Clifford Hart	Aye
Kevin Belcher	Absent	Anne Webster Day	Aye
Ted Finney	Absent	William Jones	Aye
Janice N. Wheaton	Abstain		

Town Manager Carter gave a report on the development of the Town of Amherst FY20-21 Capital Improvement Program proposal that identifies acquisition, construction and improvement of town facilities, and acquisition of capital equipment, copies of which were distributed to the Commissioners. Further review and discussion of the FY20-21 CIP was deferred to the February meeting.

A discussion was held by the Commissioners on options for an amendment to Section 18.1-908.10(6) of the Zoning Ordinance to include electronic message signs allowing for more than time and temperature. By consensus of the Commissioners no amendments will be made to the Zoning Ordinance allowing for more than time and temperature on electronic message signs at this time.

Town Manager Carter updated the Commissioners on Dave McCormick's requests to Town Council for two thirty-day deferrals on his proposed conservation easement at the Amherst Milling Company.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Hart seconded by Ms. Day and carried 5-0-2, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

June Driskill, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Secretary

FOR APPROVAL