

**Buckingham County
Planning Commission
March 22, 2021**

At a regular meeting of the Buckingham County Planning Commission held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter Francisco meeting room, located within the Buckingham County Administration Complex, the following members were present: John Bickford; James D. Crews; Patrick Bowe; Alice T. Gormus; Ashley Shumaker; Joyce Gooden. Also present were Nicci Edmondston, Zoning Administrator, and E.M. Wright, Jr., County Attorney. Steve Dorrier and Board of Supervisors' representative Danny Allen were absent.

Re: Call to Order, Quorum Present, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Patrick Bowe called the meeting to order. Alice Gormus gave the invocation, John Bickford led the Pledge of Allegiance and it was said by all who were in attendance. Patrick Bowe certified there was a quorum- six of eight members were present. The meeting could continue.

Bowe: Adoption of the agenda?

Gormus: So moved.

Bickford: Second.

Bowe: All in favor, raise your right hand. Dabney?

Crews: Yeah.

Bowe: Unanimous. Approval of minutes.

Commissioner Gormus moved, Commissioner Bickford seconded and was unanimously carried by the Commission to approve the agenda.

Bickford: Moved to approve as presented.

Gormus: Second.

Bowe: All in favor, raise your right hand. Dabney?

Crews: Yeah.

Bowe: Thank you. public comment.

Commissioner Bickford moved, Commissioner Gormus seconded and was unanimously carried by the Commission to approve the minutes as presented.

Edmondston: We have one public comment and it came to us via voicemail today. And before we play that, I'll read the statement that the chair generally indicates to read for it. And that's the Planning Commission will like to remind all speakers that they have a First Amendment right to speak. However, speakers do not have indemnification, if the statements are made with actual or constructive knowledge that they are false, or with reckless disregard for whether they're false. We ask all speakers to keep to what they know to be the truth. And by signing up for comment, you are acknowledging your understanding and agreement with the above

Kenda Hunanman: Kenda Hunanman: from district five, coming into the planning commissioners meeting. Thank you for this opportunity, I hope that we do have the ability to continue to comment after your last meeting it put that in question for a lot of people, either restricting or grouping or naming different groups and eliminating some of them. So I made this comment at the Board of Supervisors meeting previously, and I think you've got public that would like to be involved in the process. And if you begin to create so much restriction, you're going to see that nobody wants to attend your meetings, and probably nobody wants to comment. So I hope you'll take this into consideration and listen to your constituents. I know the Planning Commissioners are not elected. They're appointed. So that's why I did speak to the Board of Supervisors. I think they have a responsibility to their constituents. Thank you.

Bowe: That the end of it. Close the public hearing I mean comment, new business.

Edmondston: Mr. Chairman, we do not have any new business at this time.

Bowe: Old business.

Edmondston: At this time, our old business consists of a public hearing for case 21 SUP 282. If you remember from the introduction last month, our landowner is Steven Wicks and our applicant is John Wicks, the property information tax map parcel map 80 at parcel 40. It contains around 75 acres 74.85, and the site for the business will be just over one acre located at 2451 Bantonshop road. And it's currently an A1 and this is an application for a special use permit for Mr. Wicks to operate a custom woodworking shop as a small business for custom and heirloom furniture. Once the public comments for the public hearing are held both the landowner and the applicant are present with us this evening. Thank you, sir.

Bowe: Do any of the commissioners have any questions at this point?

Gormus: I don't have a question, sir. But I have a comment. My husband and I visited the property. And it's very nice. But I think you need a sign out there that says okay, because we went by you twice. Before we found you. Okay. So, but very nice property.

Inaudible comment from crowd

Bowe: Anybody else have any comments or questions? Anybody want to make a motion?

Gormus: I would like to make a motion to move this on to the...

Bickford: We got to open the public hearing.

Gormus: Oh, that's right. Got excited.

Bowe: Did anyone wish to speak?

Edmondston: Mr. Chairman, we do not have anyone signed up for public comment for this public hearing.

Bowe: Okay. We have no speakers.

Inaudible comment from crowd

Bowe: We appreciate you coming to Buckingham we really do. Anybody like to make a motion?

Gormus: Now I make my motion that we move this on to the next step to the Board of Supervisors with an approval.

Bickford: Second.

Bowe: We have a first and a second and any comment? All in favor, raise your right hand. Dabney?

Crews: Yes.

Bowe: Passes unanimously? Well, that concludes the old business. Reports.

Commissioner Gormus moved, Commissioner Bickford seconded, and was unanimously carried by the Commission to move SUP-282 on to the Board of Supervisors.

Edmondston: Under reports, your building permit report is included for an informational purpose. And then the only thing I have is zoning administrator? Well, I have a couple of things. I was asked about training programs for the Planning Commission, and VCU will be holding its LUEP, certified planning commissioners program, it's going to be virtual, it starts June 7 through August 24 of this year. And if anyone is interested, you know, please let me know. And I will make sure that we have you registered and enrolled and prepared for that class. And the other thing I had just been asked at the last meeting to find out about public comment and what had been done in the past. And what I had found, historically, and in previous cases, the Board of Supervisors had not limited nor had the Planning Commission limited the three minute for individual or five minute for groups. So I thought I'd give you an update, because I believe that was what was asking me last month.

Bowe: If we found anything more out about a person coming into to go over the property rights versus zoning.

Edmondston: No sir right now we're working on that. I have had the conversation with our county administrator, Becky Carter. And of course, she has some really

great contacts. And she has been focusing on the budget primarily, but we're still trying to have a speaker available to maneuver through the legalities of zoning and land ownership. So we're still working on that for you.

Bowe: Well, it's a very important issue that we need to have come to a head here, I really do think we're faced with it continuously with this job. And I think the people here need to have an understanding of which way we go.

Edmondston: And while everyone is here, it would be the census of the Planning Commission to bring that speaker in. Is that what I'm hearing tonight as well, I mean, we're working on it. And I know that the budget has taken some precedence because this is a real pencil to paper time for county staff. So I just want to make sure we're still going to move forward with that speaker.

Bowe: Correct me if I'm wrong but am I the only one who thinks that?

Bickford: I'd like to, if possible, have the speaker, it could be at a work session, if it was scheduled better.

Edmondston: Yes, sir. And I know that we had extended an invitation or a conversation with Miss Carter about including the Board. So we wanted to make sure that they were out of budget season and had the ability when we did have the work session for them to recess to reconvene and have that plan. So if that was something that you'd like to move forward with as well, including the Board.

Gormus: I think that it would be helpful not only for the new folks on board, but as a refresher for all of us that think we know. Education is the key. I'm on board with it.

Bowe: Move on to commission matters. Anybody have anything any concerns?

Bickford: Being no concerns or matters, I'll move to adjourn.

Gormus: I'll second that.

Bowe: All in favor Raise your right hand. Dabney?

Dabney: Yes.

Bowe: Unanimous. We are adjourned.

Commissioner Bickford moved, Commissioner Gormus seconded, and was unanimously carried by the Commission to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman Bowe declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Nicci Edmondston
Zoning Administrator

Patrick Bowe
Chairman