

**Buckingham County  
Planning Commission  
May 22, 2023**

At a meeting of the Buckingham County Planning Commission held on Monday May 22, 2023 at 6:00 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 III;; Joyce Gooden, Steve Dorrier, Pete Kapuscinski, Ashley Shumaker, Stephen Taylor and Board of Supervisor Danny Allen. Also present were Nicci Edmondston, Zoning Administrator, and E.M. Wright, Jr., County Attorney.

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

Chairman John Bickford called the meeting to order. Joyce Gooden gave the invocation, Pete Kapuscinski led the Pledge of Allegiance and it was said by all who were in attendance. Chairman John Bickford certified there was a quorum- seven of eight members were present. The meeting could continue.

**Bickford:** Approval of agenda. Nicci, any changes to the agenda?

**Edmondston:** No, sir. Mr. Chairman.

**Bickford:** Seeing none do i have a motion to approve as presented.

**Allen:** So moved.

**Dorrier:** Second.

**Bickford:** All right. All in favor, raise your right hand. Approved we have approval of minutes. April 19 2023 work session minutes. Anybody have any changes? If none, do I have a motion to approve as presented?

**Supervisor Allen moved, Commissioner Dorrier seconded and was unanimously carried by the Commission to approve the agenda.**

**Gooden:** So moved.

**Allen:** Second.

**Bickford:** Any discussion? All in favor? Raise your right hand approved. April 24 2023 regular meeting minutes. Any changes? If not, do I have a motion to approve as presented?

**Commissioner Gooden moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Commission to approve the minutes as presented.**

**Shumaker:** So moved.

**Gooden:** Second.

**Bickford:** Any discussion? All in favor, raise your right hand passes. Alright. That brings us to public comment period. Okay. Do we have people signed up?

**Commissioner Shumaker moved, Commissioner Gooden seconded and was unanimously carried by the Commission to approve the minutes as presented.**

**Edmondston:** Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, we do. The first speaker will be Frank Schwaller followed by Heidi Divya Berthoud.

**Bickford:** Okay. Just as a quick reminder we have a public hearing tonight the public comment period is for anything other happening in the county other than the public hearing, we have this separate time for that. Three minutes, sir, would you give your full name?

**Frank Schwaller:** My name is Frank Charles Schwaller, and I live in district five. In late 2022 **state** commission report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found that Virginia's current regulatory framework is not adequate to address the potential impacts of commercial gold mining. And then Virginia's regulatory framework falls short in comparison to other states, the federal government and modern best practices. Southern Environmental Law Center, or SCLC, has developed a toolkit to help communities better understand land use laws available at the local level to regulate, restrict, or prohibit gold mining activities and how changes to those ordinances and policies are made. Although their toolkit focuses on gold mining, they state in the handout that these land use tools also apply to other extractive activities. As Mr. Wright explained in his presentation last week, Virginia law gives localities the power to determine whether and where to allow, restrict or prohibit gold mining, as well as other types of mining through their zoning authority in Virginia code 15.22280. He also pointed out that Virginia code 15.21227 also allows localities to establish standards and adopt regulations about mineral mining activities as long as they are not less stringent and those adopted by the director of Virginia energy. The premise the toolkit makes is that the county government wants to protect its land and residents in some way from potential impacts of gold mining, that are well documented throughout this country and throughout the world. With the permission of the Virginia code to develop protection through land use and zoning, the supervisors have turned to you do you see the danger as supervisors do, and allowing gold mining to come into the county while the state does not have adequate regulation to protect us? I am hoping that you're going to develop recommendations for the supervisors that will support this vision. Mr. Wright has advised you to update the comprehensive plan as it plays an

important role in guiding local decision making. The SEC toolkit begins with guidance on language that can support this vision. It next looks at zoning ordinances and outlines various ways they can be amended in the seemingly vast and complicated change you have been asked to weigh in on you cannot be expected to know at all that is why SCLC created this handout and they are available to answer your questions but you have to ask for help you have to reach out to them. Also you have heard from Mr. Wright, that you need to bring your ideas to Him and ask Him to do the research. Please use this toolkit and reach out to SCLC to support you in formulating ideas to bring to Mr. Wright. This seems to be the next step in addition to consulting without mining experts, thank you.

**Hedi Divya Berthoud:** Hello, my name is Heidi Divya Berthoud and I live in district five. Tonight I hope you will be discussing inviting professional expert urged to help us with understanding what are best practices for protecting Buckingham from new industrial and metallic mining, though I don't see it on the agenda. We are at the point where we need in depth discussion with expert guidance to weigh the pros and cons. We do not expect you to be experts and we certainly are not. Though we're scrambling to understand what is best for us. May I remind you of the main options that have been laid before you rely on a special use permit ban metallic mining ban metallic mining with the exclusion of metals on the USGS critical mineral list, make allowances for remining and reclamation of abandoned mines ban the use of cyanide and mineral processing require permits for all exploratory mining work require industry to prove it say first. That's that's a list. So please know that experts in mining are not anti mining. They are experts not just because they're a well-educated but they're out in the field doing the work. These folks have years of experience and are highly sought after. We could easily refer to those in industry. However, as Pro mining, all you have to do is invite them we have sent you a list of mining experts that are willing to help us out. And we would very much like you to take up the generous offer of these experts to consult with you pro bono about the details of mining. I'd like to remind you, though, that we support your...we support your efforts to look at land use law to restrict or prohibit metallic mining, that we prefer the right space approach of no toxic trespass and the Prove it first ordinance, this ordinance does not call for a ban. It does however assert our rights to be free from toxic trespass. Thank you for listening to that. In closing again, we don't expect you to become experts. But to please listen to the experts. We all know this is complicated, please let's have a serious conversation to clearly lay on the table numerous options and their possible consequences for that, for that we need to call in the experts try them. We think you will not just like them, but we'll be so relieved and appreciative to have their help. I was talking with Pete just before this and he told me that you have help with the comprehensive plan. And that's the same thing that we're suggesting get help get the pros to help you to figure this out. It's too much. Thank you. Thank you,

**Daniel Bachelor:** Good evening. My name is Daniel Bachelor. I currently reside at 9646 South James Madison highway here in Buckingham County. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak. Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen of this commission. I want to offer all of you a full disclosure. I'm a full time Kyanite mining company employee. I'm here tonight to speak on you too as a person who went to work for the Dixon family as a teenager.

And some people will now label me as a senior citizen. I know this commission is aware of all the good our company does for this community. From the donations to the schools and churches to the fire department to the rescue squad, to the Sheriff's Department. As well as shutting our company down for a full day and paying our employees go out on the street and pick up in excess of 400 bags of trash, as well as shutting our company down one day every December. So the Wounded Warriors can come the veterans of our country can come and hunt at our mine site and opportunity they might not otherwise have. I know this commission is aware of the many awards and accolades we've been awarded for being great stewards of the land. But what you may not know is how proud we are to work for a company and a family that has such tremendous integrity. how proud we are to be part of a company where our product is shipped all over the world. Our product is used in bricks in your fireplace and it's used in turbine blades and engines. The aluminum cans that you drink out of every day a filter is made with our product that is poured through 85% of Kyanite Mulite used in this world comes from Buckingham County, Virginia, something we should be bragging about not having to defend. We take pieces of Buckingham County we put it in a bag and we literally ship it all over the world. We're proud to offer a PayScale and benefits and retirement package unmatched by many other companies. We're proud to offer our employees opportunities that may another will have in a rural area. I know the commission is aware of the fact abandoned mining in this community would not only be economic suicide to the county, but to the 140 men and women who give so much of themselves and their lives every day to make this county better for themselves to county and their children. Many of us work in there working for second third generation Dixon family. We currently have fathers and sisters and brothers working there to carry on their family name. Working at Kyanite gives these people in this community an opportunity not to have to move to other areas where they can find competitive pay and benefits. We all work here. We all live here. We all shop here. We depend on this company for our livelihood. Please allow us to continue to be part of the community we so much cherish. Thank you for listening to me tonight. Thank you sir.

**Wayne Smith:** My name is Wayne Smith. I've lived in the county all my life in the Arvonnia and New Canton area you can know you and I have worked for the slate quarry and Kyanite all my life. And I retired from Kyanite September 22. I sent myself and kids to school and took care of my family by working for those companies. We the People of Buckingham County should be proud to have these companies in the county. Take Kyanite they ship their product all over the world. And it's all coming back from Buckingham County. And then the slate quarry if you ride down through West End of Richmond and look at all the roofs as Buckingham slate and I think that means a lot to the county and we all should really appreciate that. And I know I have enjoyed working and making my career through these companies like you.

**Wayne Gentry:** Good evening, my name is Wayne Gentry. I live at 1225 High School road. Buckingham County. Thank you for letting me give this opinion about the ban on Kyanite mining on Buckingham County. I worked for the mining industry for 30 years. I'm currently a first year Foreman and plant operator at Kyanite mining corporation. My job in Buckingham man industry has allowed me to work close to home and not to have to travel to different cities and states. My mining job has provided good pay, and I've used to raise to raise a family of five

in Buckingham County. In fact, some of my family now work with me at Kyanite. My sons Corey and Brandon are now employed at Kyanite mining. Sometimes in the future, I'll be retiring from Kyanite mining when I do I'll use it for retirement savings that are earned in profit sharing dollars that company has given me every year that I worked as you'd think about this topic, please consider all the benefits to Buckingham County families that mountain has provided this increasing number of good opportunities and Buckingham not banned him.

**Faye Shumaker:** Hello, my name is Faye Shumaker and I'm a life time resident of Buckingham County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight. I retired in December after proudly work in Kyanite Mining Corporation. For 58 years. I have served for four generations of the Dixon family. And during those years, I worked with hundreds of employees who were secure knowing they would have a paycheck, paid vacation, profit sharing and the other benefits Kyanite provides to them. I watched as these employees were able to feed their families, buy homes, send their children to college and in some cases send their grandchildren to college. Their lives and the lives of their families were made immensely better because of their jobs because of Kyanite mining. This company is known for their generosity to all things local, Fire and Rescue, ball clubs, local libraries, Boy Scouts, historic Buckingham I can remember back in the early 80s When the very first computer lab appeared at Buckingham County High School. It was a gift from Kyanite mining corporation. A generous scholarship is offered each year to our longtime employee, Terrell Harvey Dunavant it for her many years of dedication to this company. One of the little known things about this company is that there are many decades of dedication to land reclamation, countless hours and millions of dollars have gone into this part of Kyanite mining. They have received numerous state awards as well as national recognition. They were recently featured on Virginia homegrown on PBS. And if you have not seen this, I urge you to take the time to watch it and become familiar with this vital part of Kyanite. It is my favorite hope when you make a decision, you will peel back the many layers of this company and you will move forward to acknowledge the multiple benefits that they have brought and continue to bring to their employees to Buckingham County, surrounding counties in the state of Virginia. Thank you very much.

**Raymond Tony:** Raymond Tony, I live at 6205 West James Anderson highway. I've been employed in the mining industry for 36 years. And it has afforded me the opportunity to provide and raise for my family. And, of course, it is a huge asset to the county for the positive benefits that it brings. Huge supporter to the community brings in commerce and employs a large number of residents. I have four brothers that at one time or another have also been in the mining industry. A nephew that is currently in the mining industry. And I just want you the commission to remember that if mining is done properly, it can be rewarding for the county.

**Trey Gee:** Good evening, I'm Trey Gee. I'm a resident of shepherd's corner just down the road. I have two phases to my career first as a lawyer, business lawyer practicing in Atlanta for 12 years and then moved back home to Lunenburg and worked for Baileys cigarettes, a small business that was certainly an American success story, which we sold two years ago to a major competitor. I'd like to talk a little bit as a lawyer, although I hadn't done it a long time. So I might be a little bit rusty. And I won't go back over the Dillon rule. I understand y'all heard something

about that rule. But it is a rule of strict construction, that any local government in Virginia has to have powers that are expressly granted by the General Assembly, or there must be powers that are rightfully in a central and interpreted from those powers. You've heard about the rule. I think I found a case that may have some bearing on this particular matter. The county the Board of Supervisors in Fairfax in 1980 passed an ordinance banning the sale of every non alcoholic beverage that was not sold in a bottle that had a cash refund. It was for environmental purposes a good purpose. The Virginia Supreme Court analyzed the ordinance under the Dillon rule. First they looked for an express grant of authority to the Board of Supervisors for such a blanket ban. They did not find one. The General Assembly had granted County's authority to remove litter regulate trash dumping and provide for health, safety and welfare of county residents. That was true the second step was looking for implied power. It just so happened that the General Assembly had actually rejected this type of bottle tax. Very recently before Fairfax County passed their own ordinance, Supreme Court found that compelling in this case that that rejection by the General Assembly did not intend to grant local government the power to exercise a bottle tax in this particular regard. There's a code section 45.2 Dash 200 of our Virginia code, whether General Assembly authorize the governor to execute an interstate mining compact, and there was a legislative finding in there specifically that I want to quote for you, quote, mining and the contributions there have to the economy and wellbeing of every state are a basic significance unquote. That's a finding of our general assembly. And these mining regulations are extremely complicated as I think everyone here is admitting to you. This is really a state issue. And a blanket ban seems to me might run afoul of this finding of the General Assembly of how basic mining is to the well being of our entire state. The second part that you're not going to get to because I have 12 seconds is just to remind you that you do have the power on a case by case basis to make sure any mining comes here and does right by the environment and does right by our people and we all want that.

**Joseph Anthony:** Hello, I'm Joe Anthony. I live in the Maysville district on Oak Hill Road. And mining on an industrial scale, in the age of cyanide has far reaching implications for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. our children and our children's children will have to deal with the consequences of our current debate on industrial metallic mining, whether those consequences result in a clean, quality environment or an unlivable one. The world needs Mines, Minerals, and energy. The world also needs clean air, clean water, and green spaces untouched by industry. I implore you to write the book on how to make this happen. Without letting the industry write it for you or for us or for our children's children. My wife wanted me to say something to Can I read her comments?

**Bickford:** You've got a minute and a half so go ahead.

**Anthony:** My wife had a short thing she wanted to say. Her name is Chris Arbo. She also lives in the Mayfield district. I often shed tears of joy and thankfulness that I live in this sweet beautiful Buckingham I do not want these tears to change to tears of distress if the gold mine disaster strikes we must take care of this place not abuse it. Nothing good ever comes from greed Thank you for listening. You want these comments? Do they go into notebooks somewhere?

**Bickford:** They're available on public record but you can give them to Nicci if you prefer.

**Kenda Hunanman:** Good evening Kenda Hunanman planning commissioner Dorrier district five heard some really interesting comments tonight. Some things that make me question who has misguided these good people at these mines? There was never I really am shocked that you've been misled to think that this is a ban on Kyanite \*inaudible\*

**Bickford:** Kenda. Please address the board those people have the right to say what they want.

**Hunanman:** They do And they have a right to know the truth. I didn't hear you...

**Bickford:** State the truth or whatever you want but address us not them.

**Hunanman:** I didn't hear you correct them when they said it was a ban on kyanite. So I think that's very important that they hear that.

**Bickford:** You can say that without confronting them.

**Hunanman:** I'm not confronting them. I just hope that they understand the truth. I really value the truth and not miss information here. So I just think I do have an extra copy of the SLC report if anybody needs one. I was given an extra report. I think we've heard from EM Wright about his feeling that maybe there's plenty of time to deal with this. And the concern is that currently Ashton Bay Holdings is posting on their website, that they they made two new discoveries in the belt, a large, one kilometer by two kilometer area of Sedex, copper, zinc mineralization, and high grade mesothermal Gold drilling is planned for 2023 on high priority copper and gold targets. So it's anybody's guess whether they're just kidding, or whether they really mean that they want to be here and get started with their exploring and decide to present the suggestion that they would like to mine here. This is about the future. This is not about the past. We know the local mines should be grandfathered. They do a great service. People have jobs, they contribute so beautifully to all of us here in Buckingham, nobody wants to see them suffer. I do think that if you act now, rather than waiting, you will prevent some unforeseen things. We know that this is an unprecedented time in our history. We know we can't count on the climate in the weather any longer. And we know there's a rush to electrify so there's a big interest in mining. I hope you will move forward with information that we've tried to give you over the last two years. Thank you

**Chad Oba:** Good evening, my name is Chad Oba. I'm in District Six Miss Gooden's district. And I represent friends of Buckingham. So Mr. Wright in his presentation last week said that one of the options the county has is to ban mining. And I think that perhaps some of the comments tonight are very concerned about that. And I want to make it clear, and I'm emphasizing this, that banning all mine was never our objective. We were very clear that we want to stop new industrial scale metallic mining. And we do understand what a cornerstone to the county's economy that both Kyanite and slate are. And they've been here a long time and they've done a lot of good. You've heard about that tonight. So it was never our intention to restrict them. The local mining companies seem to think this was an objective, but it wasn't. Nobody asked. Our

goal was in is to protect ourselves from the well known problems and challenges of new metallic mining. Neither of these mines are intentionally mining for metals. We're clear on that. At your last work session, you talked about the comprehensive plan and reaching out to the people of Buckingham for input at a public meeting at the community center on June 15. We're wondering if you have secured that, and because we'd like to get words out through our sources to make sure that people are informed and can be there. I also encourage you as other several others have tonight to invite the mining experts we've already suggested to you, Steve Emerman and Jan Morell and the southern Environmental Law Center. And it might be helpful for you to check out their website. They have a whole lot on the gold mining page. And it might it might be helpful for you. And in addition to that, if you would Go to the Friends of Buckingham website, we all have a lot. We also have a lot of information in detail or in brief. So take your pick. So, there's, I have a question about banning just the cyanide process and wondering how that's worked for other communities. There's so many questions, I really, really encourage you to, to use these experts that have come forward. They have a lot of experience. Thank you.

**Marie flowers:** Hi, I'm back again. Marie Flowers, and I live in Curdsville, the third district, and I live fairly close to the Kyanite mines. And all the meetings that I'm into, which are quite a few. No one has ever indicated any problem with Kyanite, and I just don't understand this the fear from what we're interested in. You know, Kyanite has the problem, I'm sure they will correct it. But we want you all to get as much information from experts that have helped other communities wade through the details of the mining world and get the best advice you can. Let's see. I want to remind you also, when the Aston company first appeared on the horizon, the Board of Supervisors determined not to permit and I think we absolutely should have permitting. For anyone who does exploratory mining. And the state study that we've talked about recommends permitting exploratory work. We need oversight of exploration, such as proper closure of drill holes and records of when and where the core drilling took place. All for public health and safety measures require permits for drilling of water wells. So I think the this mining industry needs to be even more careful. permitting for exploratory work is definitely within your reach, please create a strong language and advise the supervisors. Also, I still think that the no trespass prove it first ordinance is the best thing and I think you mentioned I hope you heard what I what I asked you at the last meeting, if you could provide some legal opinion that disagrees a little bit with Mr. Wright's opinion. I know he his first is to look out for the county and thank you.

**John Snoddy:** Good evening my name is John Snoddy, and I am the environmental and safety director at Kyanite Mining Corporation. Thank you for the time and effort you folks are putting into this topic. The topic of potentially banning certain types of mining in Buckingham County. I happen to be a native of Buckingham County. I also happen to love the environment. And I love mining. Those three things are not mutually exclusive. When I was a younger man, I loved the environment so much that I studied environmental sciences and when I graduated, I watched as my classmates were forced to take jobs in their chosen field the environmental field. They couldn't find jobs close to home. They took jobs in far off places like Taiwan and Panama and Detroit. I didn't have that problem. I came home to Buckingham for more than half of my life, not half of my career, but half of my life. I have done the responsible work of mining companies here in Buckingham County, both Solite Corporation and Kyanite Mining Corporation. What



have I gotten in return for those 22 years of environmental work? Well, because of mining in this county, I have a rewarding career, both professionally and financially. More importantly, though, my wife and I are raising three kids, based in no small part on a mining wage that I earn, right here at home. I'm able to give my kids everything they need. And some of the things they actually want, because of a mining wage, right here in Buckingham County. Ladies and gentlemen, the topic before you presents all of us with an opportunity, an opportunity to recognize what a good community partner, what an environmental steward, what a philanthropic beacon, responsible mining companies can be. If Buckingham County can attract companies in any industry, not just mining, in any industry, that can inspire this kind of loyalty, that kind of loyalty. This county should welcome those companies with open arms. And to be sure if there's a tweak that needs to be imposed on those new projects or restriction, or 10 restrictions, that mechanism already exists in the form of the county's special use permit. As you deliberate this issue, ladies and gentlemen, please remember this son of Buckingham County, the sons and daughters of Buckingham with whom I work, and the sons and daughters of the generations to come who, like us want to prosper, right here at home. Thank you.

**Bobby Snoddy:** That's a hard act to follow. And those of you that don't know that was my son that I'm here because I believe in common sense, government. By that I mean, the people in Buckingham County have always shown me that they can handle their affairs in a common sense and logical way. And so I asked myself, how does that apply to the issue that you all are confronted with as far as mining is concerned? Well, common sense is to you marshal your assets, use them the best way you can and take advantage of what you have and not waste what you have based upon what you don't have the ability to regulate. Now, common sense says to me, by the way, I do live in Buckingham County 4415 Greenway road Maysville district. Common sense says to me, the federal government and the state government are equipped to regulate health, environment and mining is Buckingham? I don't think so. I don't think we have the staff or the funding or the assets. I think we have a good staff. And I think that our staff is pointed towards regulating what we can regulate a common sense approach to the use of land. And a ban which has been suggested, if you recall, I can remember earlier tonight we heard of eight potential roads to dealing with this issue. I've counted seven of them that were somewhere in that same category of a partial ban or limitation such as that. The point as a simple one. Use logic and common sense. Don't waste your resources in an area that's regulated by the federal and state governments. Bend your resources on what you can control, your land use. And quite frankly, your land use and the special use permit is as good an instrument as you will need. Thank you so much.

**Edmondston:** We have no one else signed up for public comment, Chairman.

**Bickford:** We'll close the public comment period and we'll move to our old business, which is the public hearing case for Marci Lowrance.

**Edmondston:** Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, members of the Planning Commission, we have a public hearing this evening scheduled for phase 23 ZTA SUP 326. Our landowners David Christian at 287 boxwood Dr. R. Vanya and our applicant this evening is Marcy Lowrance 246. boxwood

drive Arvonix tax map 68, parcel 37 and contains approximately 25.7 acres and it is located at 59 Gold Hill Elementary School Road New Canton, Virginia 23123. In the Marshall magisterial district, it's currently zoned M one. This case was introduced to you last month. And as you are familiar with the applicant is wishing to add a zoning text amendment for a private recreational facility to a list of special uses and allied industrial in one zoning district and apply for a special use permit for that purpose. Miss Lowrance is here in the audience with us to address questions and concerns after the public hearing.

Bickford: Okay, thank you, Nicci. Before we're open to public comment, and public hearing, excuse me if there's any commercials I have any questions for the applicant at this time. Marci can you come forward please. Miss Gooden has a question for you.

**Gooden:** My question has to do with this recreational center. It's a girl softball center.

**Marci Lowrance:** Yes, ma'am.

**Gooden:** Do you have plans to expand it to something else? Or is it for girls softball only?

**Lowrance:** It will be for girls softball, only I will do some like younger baseball hitting, but it won't be really expanded to anyone else. It'll be just me. Mainly giving lessons out of there. But mainly just be for girls softball,

**Gooden:** And you're the only employee?

**Lowrance:** Yes, ma'am.

**Gooden:** Okay, so you don't have goals to just expand to a whole training facility?

**Lowrance:** No, ma'am. If so, I would do I do have a degree in kinesiology. So at some point, I may, you know, just do like softball workouts like agilities and things like that, but it wouldn't go outside of that broad softball.

**Gooden:** Okay. Yes, that was that was the question. And how long have you been operating?

**Lowrance:** Since October 2021

**Gooden:** 2021. Okay. All right. And I think that's 2021... Now, okay. I think that's about it. And you haven't expanded or about the same number of athletes?

**Lowrance:** Yes, ma'am. I usually have about anywhere from eight to 10 Girls a week, anywhere between 30 to hour minute sessions. But that's about it. Yeah, we haven't expanded any

**Gooden:** Injuries?

**Lowrance:** I haven't had any so far.

**Gooden:** I'm a nurse.

**Lowrance:** No, I totally understand that.

**Gooden:** I go back to that health part. But no sports injuries. Nothing like that has happened.

**Lowrance:** No, ma'am.

**Lowrance:** No, ma'am. I really try to especially with my background in kinesiology, you know, obviously prevention is really big for me. And I think that is what helps me as a college softball player to be able to play for so long was being able to be preventative in my injuries. I still had a lot. But I did do a lot of like, we do a lot of arm stretching. We do a lot of, you know, warm ups, all those types of things to make sure that the girls are ready. And we're not just jumping in and getting injuries that aren't necessary. So haven't had any yet. Hopefully none occur. But yes.

**Gooden:** All right. Thank you. Those are my questions. Thank you.

**Bickford:** Any other questions? Yes Pete.

**Kapuscinski:** Have you had any success stories you'd like to share?

**Lowrance:** Yes. So in Charleston, none of my girls have graduated yet. But most of them are still playing. They play on college showcase teams. I've had a ton of little girls that have just started and now they're, they're learning to pitch and now they're pitching in games and going from never pitching before to starting to pitching games is a really big deal for softball because especially when they're younger, it's really hard to get control. So for me, I tried to really work in steps and I tried The we try to work on one thing at a time we break them down. So I've had a bunch of girls that have either leveled up in their, like age group and they have gone from not really playing too much, or they're putting them in positions where they're not. I guess helping the team as much to now they're in vital positions on their teams, playing pitcher, and catcher and first base and those vital positions of softball, all of them are vital. But as you get older, all the positions get more vital and your younger, they sometimes help you build your skills in smaller places.

**Kapuscinski:** One more question, what do you think? And even if you could provide evidence, what do you what do you think you've done for the confidence of these young ladies?

**Lowrance:** Oh, that's, for me, that's my most important thing is I want these girls have confidence. So I think that I see it, not only in softball, but I see it a lot in their grades, I see it in their confidence in school. I don't all follow them all on social media, but I am friends with a lot of their parents. And I see, you know, their parents coming in and saying like, Oh, they're doing their affirmations in the mirror. And one thing I have them do is they have to write goals with

markers on their window on their mirrors, like in the morning. So we have long term goals, short term goals. And then I have things like, whatever their goal is for the week, they're saying that to themselves in the mirror every day. So their parents have commented to me a lot about just how it's affected their confidence in how they are not so scared to pursue things, they try new things, whereas before they weren't doing those. So I think confidence for me is the most important thing. Because if you don't have confidence, you can only go so far talents are going to take you so far. They have to have confidence, and they have to really feel that they're good enough. So I think that's really important. And I think that the parents have given me a lot of feedback that that has been really positive in their life.

**Kapuscinski:** Thank you.

**Gooden:** Mr. Chairman. I have another question. Is your training seasonal? Or is it year round?

**Lowrance:** It's year round.

**Gooden:** That's the same intensity?

**Lowrance:** Yes.

**Shumaker:** Do you utilize the existing outdoor field?

**Lowrance:** I do occasionally. that would that would be more seasonally though, when it's warmer. So we've started to a little bit. But mainly I'm indoors, I do use that outside some but that would mainly just be for longer throws or for pitching, it's really good for them to do long toss. it lengthens out their muscles so they don't get so sore. And it helps them throw harder but contain their arm and contain injuries. So we do use it occasionally. It's not a year round thing, but in the seat and seasonally we try to use it it helps them with transitioning into actual season where they're getting ground balls on the actual dirt as opposed to the turf.

**Shumaker:** Would you ever put up any permanent lighting or do you just use that when it's available for daylight hours right now?

**Lowrance:** I do not intend to do any lighting or anything like that. No, that's not two days a week is not going to pay for lights outside. Now I would say it's mainly just used for daylight hours in the summer, we have a little lengthier time to do that. So we're just from about 430 to seven right now. So I can put my little ones to bed at night.

**Kapuscinski:** Yes, you were a baseball player. Right? How far how far did you go?

**Lowrance:** I played Division One softball. I played for my first two years at Longwood and then I played at Charleston, Southern and South Carolina.

**Kapuscinski:** Excellent. Thank you.

**Bickford:** Anything further? Okay. Marci you can sit. Let's go ahead we'll do the public hearing now. All right. I will now open up the public hearing for this case.

**Edmondston:** Mr. Chairman, we do have one individual who has signed up and is in person to speak Lexi Baird, the clerk to the Commission received just prior to the meeting two letters that were written by individuals who could not be here would you like for me just to commit those to the minutes of the meeting? Did you want them read?

**Bickford:** If you would go ahead and read those later. But let's have the person that's in person here first then we read the two letters.

**Edmondston:** That is Isaac Lowrance.

**Isaac Lowrance:** Good afternoon, my name is Isaac Lowrance. Speaking on behalf of grit softball. She did not tell you about the success story of Allie Eubanks, she plays for North Carolina Central. They just competed in the regionals of the softball tournament. They went conference so I'm she's a pitcher there. So Marci worked with her whenever we were in Charleston. And then when we moved up here, she's still given lessons every now and then and tips and a little, you know, hey, you can correct this through videos and things like that. So that is another success story, but Marci has been great for this community. She's helped these girls so much. We were at the softball game yesterday. Or excuse me, we had a T ball game yesterday, but it was a softball game before. And there was a ton of girls on the team that came up after the game. saw Coach Marci ever yell and hugging her telling them how successful they were and what they were doing. and some of them gave a little, I need to work on this. And she was like, Girl, I told you, you need to work on that. And you're like, I know, Coach, I'm sorry, but I will do better. But you notice little things that she's been doing great. And one of the big thing is, she's so good about making sure girls understand that softball is a great thing to do. But it's not your identity. That's not what you should base your life on. Your success in softball should not be was based on everything else forever your life. So that's been I feel like her mentality about that. Just making sure you know, you're bigger than softball, so don't make that all that you do. has been great for her and great for her. Her kids that she works with. Another great thing that she does, I believe is that, you know, she doesn't let these kids talk bad about themselves, say things like I suck, or I did terrible things like that. Or I had a slump. She doesn't believe in slumps. You have one bad at bat. The next one you do better. So she's consistently just pushing these kids to be better and do better. And it's just it's awesome to have her here. It's great for the community. Again, it's great for these girls. It's something that's needed, I think for sure. Thank you.

**Edmondston:** Mr. Chairman, the first letter is from Trequan Gregory it states Good evening. I believe that the proposed Buckingham softball complex will benefit this community on so many levels. Currently, there are no local softball academies in Buckingham County. Therefore, we have to travel out of town to give our children the opportunity to be trained by a qualified person. I have no doubt in my mind that this business will better our children. It will make our daughters

more confident in their skills, allowing for them to be trained by a person such as Marci Lowrance is a rare experience. Marcy is one of the most caring and loving people you will meet. She truly loves the sport and most of all, she loves to see your students succeed in softball. Softball is a sport that is not only a good physical activity, it is good for a person's mental health. We need things like this in Buckingham County for our children to participate in. If we continue to go out of the county it only pushes people away from the county. We need things like this in house so that we attract new residents and more people to our area are proving the softball complex can bring in more revenue to the stores in the Arvonian new area. Approving the softball complex will ensure that we are building our youth up for leadership, ensuring positive mental health, and it lays positive groundwork for successful relationships within the softball world. The next letter of support comes from Priscilla Tyson. I hope this email finds you well I'm writing in support of Marci Lowrance and Grit Academy. My daughter Holly has been working with Marci for quite some time. She has grown as an athlete as well as a confident young lady. Marci feeds the needs of my daughter both on and off the field. She has taught her many skills for the game of softball, however, she has also helped prepare her mentally for the game. Hallie has a passion for softball, and it has been fantastic to have Marci a hometown girl and her program to encourage and support her. It has also been a huge help for me to be able to get Hallie, the instruction that she craves so close to home. I have three sports children and we have traveled for miles and miles seeking the same in years past. Grit Academy's location is a blessing for my busy family. In closing the student athletes of this county as well as surrounding deserve this opportunity to work and grow alongside Grit Academy. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Priscilla Tyson.

**Bickford:** Thank you, Nicci. All right ill close the public hearings, excuse me, turn it back over to the commissioners. Commissioners have any further questions for the applicant?

**Allen:** No question. I've had other people in the county that are really approved of Marci teaching, training those young children. And they would really love to see it keeps going. And I'm right with them. And I know that in this plan, I just want to make sure about understand that the outdoor feel, and the inside of both is involved in application.

**Bickford:** Yeah. I come from that district. And thank you think it's an excellent use of the fields and the facility and it's certainly an asset. And I played a little sport in my time and you learn how to get ready for the game. But you also learned some life lessons. And that's obvious in what people talk about you Just want to make a comment. All right. If no further discussion, do I have a motion?

**Kapuscinski:** Yes, sir. I'd move that we, we I'd make a motion that we push this on to the supervisors for their approval.

**Allen:** Second.

**Bickford:** Have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All in favor, raise your right hand. That's unanimous. You'll be moving on to public hearing to the Board of Supervisors. Good luck. All right. brings us to a new business introduction of the US Cellular tower.

**Commissioner Kapuscinski moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Commission to move 23-ZTASup326 on to the Board of Supervisors.**

**Edmondston:** Yes sir. This next case is an introduction of 23 SUP 327. For US Cellular our owner and applicant information is as follows the landowners for this particular piece of property are Richard and Terry Harris at 211 Holland road Farmville Virginia 23901 and our applicant is US Cellular by way of agent Emily Lauer. She is located in Roanoke, Virginia. The property information for this request is tax Max 196 parcel 13. It contains approximately 44 point 98 acres and it is located at 211 Holland Road Farm Virginia in the Curdsville district. The zoning district is of course a one agricultural and the request is to obtain a special use permit for the purpose of construction a 199... Constructing a 199 foot monopole communications tower. The applicant is asking the Planning Commission to recommend a public hearing date to hear this request. Of course, this is not a by right activity, it does require a special use permit to move forward or at least to be reviewed. Please note that all of our telecommunication towers are actually passed through our consultant for the county, which is cityscape you do have their recommendation included with all of the other documentation, the application and formal documents that accompany that application. The cityscape recommendation does state with certain additional conditions that this could possibly be approved by the Planning Commission and ultimately the board I have included the additional conditions as specified by cityscape and your list of conditions it is for your review. I do have Susan Reybold and Ben Evans with city scape. joining us virtually this evening along with the applicant, Emily Lauer to address questions and concerns. Again, the request of the applicant this evening would be for a public hearing. So my next questions are would it be the pleasure of the planning commission to hold a public hearing for this request? And if so, would June 26 at 6pm be suitable?

**Bickford:** Okay, thank you, Nicci. At this time, any questions from the commissioner's you have city scape and the applicant?

**Edmondston:** Yes. Mr. Chairman,

**Kapuscinski:** I have some questions. First of all, what I would assume there was a balloon test.

**Edmondston:** Yes. And all of that documentation was included in your packet.

**Kapuscinski:** Okay. And the one thing that I wondered if they could include, there have been there had been cell tower recommendations in the county. Before I was involved in one myself and quite frankly, there was a map, and I'm not quite sure. I remember exactly what the title of the map was. But basically what it did is it showed the range the area of coverage for each of the cell towers, I went through the application as you as you presented it, I did not see one of those, I

wondered if, if the applicant would have one, specifically as it related to the other towers in the area. I'd like to know basically the coverage and the coverage gaps. That's what I'm asking.

**Edmondston:** Sure. So I'm going to leave that question to Susan Reybold and Ben Evans. But if you take a quick look, or maybe not so quick look at the city scape recommendation. It does actually mentioned the other towers that are in the area, those that are constructed and those that were applied for, but a construction permit was actually never obtained for development of that tower. It does specifically mention how it will impact communications in this area. But I will turn that over to Susan reybold and Ben Evans with cityscape.

**Gooden:** Along with that, a second question that there is a chart that's to me it's like pixelated in there showing what it looks like to me proposed present coverage and proposed coverage. And when the cell tower that when a cell tower came to this board before we had, I can't even see the streets to be able to tell I think it's three A and three B exhibit three, three B, I couldn't even I can't tell where the streets are. And I would like to see a more definitive Yeah, that's it. That's it. Yeah, I'm trying. I'm trying to get to it. But we've got all the plans for the tower and everything really definitive, but I would I can't see the streets. So I would like to see something before we had something that had, almost circular area, I something a little more definitive than those pixels because I was looking at the pixels and it's like, well, how many is it here? And flipping back and forth. So I would like to be able to compare the present coverage with the proposed coverage. Who is it benefiting? About how much of a benefit? Is it really going to be?

**Edmondston:** Ben Evans, are you able to hear the conversation this evening? Ben?

**Ben Evans:** Yeah, I'm here. And by the way, Susan is not here. And she had to she was on for as long as she could do. But she had to leave this meeting to attend another meeting.

**Edmondston:** Understood, will you be able to address the two questions posed this evening?

**Evans:** As I understand the question was what would be what is the current existing coverage look like for the area with the US Cellular their service and what would be if the proposal was constructed. As mentioned, propagation maps report which is released figure figures three, four, I believe. It's not specific, it's not very obvious, as I said a report, it's not very obvious where the improved coverage would be. But it's there, there would be some signal improvement in certain areas, and it would also relieve capacity issues that might come up with the willis mountain us cellular site of course, the applicant wanted to meet a capacity solution to inlet solution was to build a new site to enrich the willis mountain site. Connection traffic to the facility because a site any one site in the network, have you saw our service normally handle a finite amount of connections or connection requests. So a new site is proposed. Not only to provide better coverage, or brand new coverage where coverage certainly doesn't exist. But to really release the call that you need the connection capacity of another site nearby to prevent it from being overwhelmed with requests to connect.



**Gooden:** Sir, I can tell exactly you tell you where my calls are going to drop when I drive route 15 I can't even find this location on this propagation map. I want to see something more specific. I know which Hill going down my call is going to drop. I am not a US Cellular customer. But I can tell where my calls are going to drop. And what I'm trying to find out is to know I'm trying to find out where the improvement is going to be. I can barely tell where route 15 is on this propagation map. I just want to see a better mapping system than what you've presented here. And actually, I just came down 15 Coming to this meeting from Farmville and I didn't make a call because no need to make a call here because it's going to drop. No need to make a call here. I need to see something that's better to show me a better coverage area. And before we had an a situation that it was benefiting, who the increased benefit would be, would it be buckingham? Is Or is it going to be for people in the Farmville area? I can't even tell where the Farmville county line is on here to see, to compare coverage. I cannot compare these two maps, I just want to see something that I can compare. That's what I'm asking for.

**Kapuscinski:** In other presentations, in other presentations, I've seen a map in the area that where you could actually see the streets. I take. I take Mrs. Gooden's point here. But what I noticed was that the presentation included not just the location of the cell towers, but concentric circles, going out from those towers showing the coverage area, I was hoping that there was something like that here so that we can understand where the gaps would still exist, and what gaps you intend to fill. That's the first question. Second question is, will it only be US Cellular customers that benefit from this?

**Evans:** You want me to try to answer that?

**Edmondston:** Yes, sir. Ben, please.

**Evans:** Well, the point about the map, I agree that's not a kind of map that's meant as a street map. Perhaps Cellular can kind of offer a suggestion as to how to better kind of both come up with a better propagation you have to be more detailed that that you can distinguish the highways, the US Highway state highways county roads and where the population centers actually at you don't really see that USL maps and the kind of about using concentric circles to represent the coverage that's only a crude approximation of what the coverage would be like inputted into the coverage footprint would not be anywhere near a circle because the way the radiation patterns produced by the side to Earth is not circular. That's number one. And we were coverages is significantly affected by vegetation, terrain primarily vegetation and terrain, there are other factors that affect it. So, long story short, nobody really depends on the concentric circles because they can be misleading the coverages won't be circular I believe this site is already \*inaudible\* The anchor will be Us Cellular the tower will be will be built and US Cellular will be will be honest in immediately following construction, so, I assume that they will be the APR 10 tenant and the town the tower according to applicants documents applications will be built for five additional carriers. ATNT dish T Mobile so any other carrier can come along and if they if they have coverage deficiencies in the same area, then perhaps they would consider co locating in this tower So, so for now, as the as the application stays right now it's the US Cellular site. And hopefully there'll be more co locators, your response to the coverage as far as

was in the county, with the county lines? I'm not, I am not sure. Not sure where the county lines are, actually. It would be good. Would be good to have the cat we have apparently now with the coverage information on it.

**Gooden:** Mr. Evans, my cellular carrier is not US Cellular. My good friend's cellular carrier is US Cellular. She can tell me where her phone drops on route 15. And what I'm saying is that we need to know Not we but I need to see a better map than this. I need to know where the highway is. I need to know where the county line is. And so that can come back...

**Edmondston:** If I may interject a better propagation that would come from the applicant because just to note that the information that the applicant submitted was deemed complete by the ordinance of Buckingham County. So what Miss Lauer did present didn't meet the requirements for the review by cityscape. Now Miss Lauer, Emily is still on this call with us. So it would be her submitting the propagation maps for you Holland road just for a point of references right at shepherds Country Store formerly known it's now Millbrook. So it's probably three to four miles north of the prince edward Buckingham border, just to kind of put that in reference for you. But Emily, are you available this evening? There are some questions for as far as the Planning Commission is requesting some better propagation maps and clear maps, would you be able to submit that?

**Emily Lauer:** I can reach out to your radio frequency engineer, I'm assuming it's just not as visually helpful due to the fact that you zoomed far out to kind of show the full coverage band of what they expected. So maybe I can see if they can just do something more zoomed in and kind of call out those roads in the county line.

**Edmondston:** Something that's a bit more clear for the specific area itself. I'm happy to work with you to get those to the planning commission as quickly as possible.

**Lauer:** I can get that submitted and hopefully get you something by the end of this week.

**Bickford:** Normally, which propagation circles or give you the that would be very beneficial, even if it was just on a county map would be very beneficial. And could and that's what they're asking for.

**Kapuscinski:** Yeah. Can she do that and in reference to the other towers that are near? I'm interested in what I'm interested if this tower goes up, are we going to close gaps or we're going to create more gaps? That that's what I'm interested in understanding.

**Bickford:** Your going to close gaps because it's a new tower.

**Edmondston:** If you go back to the Master Plan nearly 15 years ago, it's going to be a series of towers based upon the topography and the contours of Buckingham County and many localities alike. In order to cover those gaps. You have to build out your master plan. There were two towers that were part of that master plan that never came to fruition they were never built. So

there are many gaps that are currently there. I do believe that Emily will be able to submit exactly what you're asking for a point of reference. I may pull in our IT director, Mr. Shumaker to work with me as well, he and I do work on that master plan along with cityscapes so we may be able to maybe pull something together in the next couple of days quickly, around the same timeframe as Emily's able to submit

**Bickford:** Pete to answer your question as well as Joyce this was not going to solve the problem completely. I can assure you because it's too far between the towers normally your towers reached from only maybe two miles two and a half and then then the grid degrades as you go farther. And because these other towers have not been built, you're going to have those gaps but at least it's a start is much needed. I can take as yours has already indicated but I am us cellular and it just happens to be my provider but that area is weak right there.

**Kapuscinski:** Yeah, let me let me explain the Mr. Chairman, why I'm asking a while back, I had a neighbor, the one who put his cell tower up. And it was T Mobile T Mobile one put the cell tower up. And they were going to put it up on a property that was owned by somebody who lived on the west end Richmond who claimed he was a resident here. And he wasn't when they did that, when they did the test, balloon test. And there was a proposal, I think they were like one foot under a beacon level. And there were some questions as to whether or not the FAA or the FAA, were going to going to require a lower level for beacon, that beacon was shined in my, in my bedroom. So I got a little bit upset about it. And I said, Look, I said the balloon test shows that there's an issue here. Well, according to the government, a balloon test doesn't make any difference. You cannot deny a tower based on aesthetics. And I understand that. But the question and Pat Bowe was in my chair at the time, and I thought he did an outstanding job, because the question from him was, how many of these towers do we need to put up in Buckingham County, in order to get the coverage, we need, there was a pad on Pete Singer property. And what they did is they went out and they did a study. And if that if T Mobile would have gone to that pad and put up their tower, they would have covered that they would have taken care of the gaps between Crescent and Willis. All right, there were three towers, and they would have taken care of those gaps. Putting that tower where they were putting it would have required even yet another tower to close those gaps. The issue is how many towers were going to put up, the object to me would be putting up the fewest amount of towers in order to cover the most the majority of the gaps, you know, otherwise, your county ends up looking like a porcupine. I don't mean to be funny about that. But seriously, the question becomes how many of these properties are going to have towers on them to cover everybody's get the issue in the other one was that T Mobile didn't want us cellular on their tower. They wanted to be the anchor tower, and they weren't going to they were going to decide who would go on that tower? Well, you know, Us cellular didn't want to having to do that they had the Pete Singer pad. So they wanted to be the anchor. So they got into this argument. T Mobile said, I'm not going to be part of that. You want to build it there, that's fine. We're not going to go, we're not going to go on that tower. It got to be a ridiculous argument between people who own these big businesses who wanted to monopolize That signal. So what I'm trying to do, we're talking about land use here. And we're talking about where we put towers. My question is, whether it's US Cellular or T Mobile, or whoever. Are we allowing these towers to go into areas with carriers who happen to anchor these towers in an optimal area

where we can absolutely minimize the number of towers on our property in the county and get the most coverage? That's the question I'm asking.

**Bickford:** Well, that that was cityscape is the county consultant. They know, they have all the technology and all this when they review it. That's questions that they look at what's the closest power to what's a coverage? Is it going to fill in? the county took a position years ago, as Nicci indicated, limited 195 feet that way doesn't have to be lit.

**Kapuscinski:** This one's 199.

**Bickford:** As long as its under 200, But if it's 199, yeah. Anyway, as long as it's 199, it doesn't have to be lit. And that was one of the big issues. So what they look at every application now because they are a consultant in as they said, they feel it's a need there for it to try to fill in. If you want to have less towers, we'd have to change the strategy that we've been operating under, and you would require you get taller towers. That's the only way you're going to get by you either have taller towers and few of them or you have smaller, shorter towers. And you don't have them lit and they can be monopole.

**Kapuscinski:** Well, I'd like to see the coverage map. I really would. So

**Bickford:** I think they're going to try to get that for you. And Joyce. Anyway, consultant cityscape has indicated that it is a fit, it does look it's in the corner of a field.

**Kapuscinski:** Yeah, how far is it off the road? You know?

**Bickford:** 400 and some feet off the road.

**Kapuscinski:** It was quite a ways back. How far is it away from the nearest house?

**Bickford:** Closet house is actually through the woods between the tower and route 15. If you blow the aerial up, it looks like maybe I don't know it. I estimate 300 feet, but it's in timber.

**Kapuscinski:** That would be Mr. Harris's house, right? That would be the nearest house.

**Bickford:** No, it would be the neighbor.

**Kapuscinski:** It would be the neighbor. Did you hear any comments from the neighbor?

**Edmondston:** I've heard nothing from no one in regards to this introduction as of yet. It's only been posted since um Last Wednesday, which meets the state code, but nothing so far.

**Gooden:** Mr. Chairman. My concern was about the coverage being able to tell where the coverage is going to be. Not the need for coverage and better reception in this area. And a couple other areas, but definitely this area needs better reception.

**Bickford:** Absolutely. Again, it's not going to resolve the problem completely. It is a step

**Gooden:** Better, better, we're getting there.

**Bickford:** Any other questions for..?

**Kapuscinski:** Mr. Chairman, where do we stand in this process? Are we going to get these this information before we go to a public hearing?

**Bickford:** Well, that was the next question that I want to make sure you had all the questions out first. But if you only ask for a propagation map, and they're going to provide that, and they can have that, too, is, you know, week or two or less, then your choice is do you want to go on and move it to public hearing knowing that that map will have to be available before decision made at the public hearing?

**Kapuscinski:** I'm okay with that. I don't know how the other Commission's feel.

**Bickford:** I mean, that's, it's to the discretion of the commission, but being that the consultant to kind of get hired, as indicated we need it, I think we probably ought to move it on to public hearing given they understand and we need to need to propagation maps.

**Edmondston:** Emily, if you're still on, it looks like you are. Can you get those propagation maps prior to Friday?

**Lauer:** I'll put that request in now and make sure you have it by then.

**Edmondston:** Thank you.

**Bickford:** All right. If there's no more questions, do I have a motion?

**Allen:** I'll make a motion that we have a public hearing.

**Kapuscinski:** Ill second that.

**Bickford:** A motion and a second. Any further discussion? All in favor, raise your right hand? Passes. We're moving to public hearing. Nicci that brings us to building permits and your report.

**Supervisor Allen moved, Commissioner Kapuscinski seconded and was unanimously carried by the Commission to move 23-SUP327 on to public hearing.**

**Edmondston:** Building Permits are included for informational purposes, and they're in this packet as well. At this time, I don't have anything as zoning administrator.

**Bickford:** Okay. Very good. Commissioner matters and concerns. Oh, yes. Go ahead.

**Edmondston:** Chairman. I'm sorry, I completely forgot next month, June 15. As you have all, we worked together last week to ensure that we had moved our work session, to a date to include our comp plan process. So our work session for June is now the comp plan community meeting on June 15. So are we will not be having a work session June 20. At this time, unless there's something different I just wanted to put that there. I know that there's been some comments about the number of meetings and those type of things. But currently, for me, the way that I review after last week is that we are not having a work session. Maybe that's something that's going to be addressed in commission matters.

**Bickford:** That's what we were going to talk about. June 20 is actually would be our scheduled work session?

**Edmondston:** 19 is a Monday that is the Juneteenth holiday. So the offices will be closed. So work session would then be scheduled for the following Tuesday, which would be June 24.

**Bickford:** All right. At the at the last week's work session, I brought it up that we would discuss at this point one does this commission want to hear from other experts? If so, we will. We'll first decide on that. And the second thing is to go ahead and decide if you want to have that work session on June 20. To entertain or have speakers if you them and two to start making a decision on what avenue we want to follow as far as far as gold mining and metallic mining, So first, I want to ask do any commissioners feel like they want to hear from any other experts, legal or whatever?

**Kapuscinski:** Mr. Chairman, it's been recommended that we talk to somebody in the SCLC. I don't know if those people are attorneys, but I wouldn't mind hearing from at least one of those individuals. If they do know something about zoning, land use as it relates to mining. I don't want to get into the civil rights aspect of it because it's not our purview. But if they want to talk about land use zoning and what they've done in areas that that can help us make decisions. I'm happy to do that. Otherwise, it'd be a waste of time. That civil rights piece, the prove it first piece belongs to the supervisor said that's where that needs to be decided not here.

**Bickford:** Okay. All right. Is that the purview of the commission? I guess they would probably contact them and they would probably do over video, I suspect. I mean, I don't know. I'm thinking they wouldn't come in person.

**Kapuscinski:** I don't know I don't know much about.

**Bickford:** Any other commissioners feel like they want to hear from an outside legal source such as Pete has indicated? You feel like you've already heard enough to make to make a decision and move forward on a legal avenue? If that's the case,

**Kapuscinski:** Mr. Chairman, I'm okay with that, too. It just was an offer. The commissions pleasure. I mean, you know, I'm fine.

**Bickford:** It looks like the commission is ready to move forward and make a decision.

**Kapuscinski:** We will have another work session though correct?

**Bickford:** Well, that's what I want to talk now. If we're going to do that, then I would suggest we take advantage of the 20th. Is that right?

**Edmondston:** Yes, sir.

**Kapuscinski:** I would move that we do that I'd have some things I'd like to discuss with the commission.

**Bickford:** Satisfactory with the other Commissioners? June 20th Six o'clock. Okay, very good. We'll be having that work session on June 20<sup>th</sup> All right. I monopolized most of that time, any of the other Commissioners have anything they want to discuss?

**Gooden:** Mrs. Edmondson? Yes. seen this before? My certificate. And I just want to say thank you for setting up the class. Those last two days, we're really trying to get to Richmond to get back here for meetings for planning. But I finished I got my certificate. I want everybody to see it. Okay, thank you. That's all I wanted to thank you. Okay, thank you. I appreciate it. It was it was an awesome class. It was overload. And so, but taking a course, and finding out how much you don't know about things, and some just nuances, and having to work different scenarios about land use within the class, and especially attending another county and other counties meeting. And I want to say officially, whoever set up this building and the system, Jamie Shumaker. Whoever set it up, it's great. Because I watch other counties shuffled papers, they couldn't flip through, they had no screens, our minutes go voice to print. They had none of that. Motions are put in bold, everything we say is either on video, or it's on print. And there are other counties that merely summarize. That is whatever is there. So Jamie, I appreciate you wherever you are. Can you hear me? All right, but thank you for the IT. Nicci, thank you for setting up the class. Thank you to Buckingham County that I didn't have to pay for the class. But I did it. And it was a struggle.

**Bickford:** All right, any other comments? Do I have a motion to adjourn?

**Allen:** So moved.

**Shumaker:** Second.

**Bickford:** I have a motion and a second. All in favor, raise your right hand. We are adjourned. Thank you.

**Supervisor Allen moved, Commissioner Shumaker seconded, and was unanimously carried by the Commission to adjourn the meeting.**

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

ATTEST:

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Nicci Edmondston  
Zoning Administrator

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John Bickford  
Chairman