

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT PLANNING BOARD

**September 7, 2011
Whitsett Town Hall**

The meeting of the Whitsett Planning Board was held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at the Whitsett Town Hall. In attendance: Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Board Vice Chairwoman Ella Efird, Board member Joe Wheeler, and Council member liaison Jerry Rice. Absent: Board alternate Homer Moser.

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia called the meeting to order, noting that a quorum was present. Council member liaison Jerry Rice offered the invocation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Minutes

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia asked for any changes to the minutes from the Planning Board meeting on July 6, 2011. With none offered, a motion was made by Board Vice Chairwoman Ella Efird to accept the minutes of the July 6 meeting as written; motion seconded by Board member Joe Wheeler. Adoption of the minutes carried by unanimous vote of those present.

2. Conclude Discussions on Canopies Relative to Proposed Covered Gas Pump Islands at the New Stop 'N Shop (formerly Mini-Mart)

Chairman Maccia and the Town Clerk briefly explained the outcome of inserting descriptions and proper placement of references to canopies in various parts of Articles II and IV of the development ordinances. The four locations in the ordinances where canopies were addressed needed to conform to existing format.

The July 12, 2011 adopted insertions included: (1) a definition of the term "canopy" in Article II; (2) a designation of "P" [permitted] in the Article IV permitted use schedule to allow such structures in HB-zoned areas; (3) a reference to canopies in the Article IV setbacks table driving referral to (4) Section 4-6.2 for specific regulations on situating canopy structures on property, using verbatim Guilford County code.

3. Any Other Old Business

Board Chairman Maccia asked for any other old business; and there was none.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss and Start Development on Recycling Ordinance

Chairman Maccia explained that it had become necessary for the Board to take action on arresting the chronic overcrowding, misuse, and abuse of the town's recycling bins situated on the Town Hall grounds. It is suspected that this negligence is due primarily to area residents who live outside the town corporate boundaries using the drop-off site—whether intentional or because they are uninformed—and strong measures needed to be devised and put in place to alleviate, or at least deter, this activity.

Four draft documents had been developed for the Board's reaction: (1) a notice of town rules and regulations that would resemble the weight of an ordinance, but not require the public hearing process; (2) a notice of warnings and violations that could become a sign erected adjacent to the containers; (3) a form by which citizens could report a recycling violation that they witnessed; and (4) another form to encourage suggestions for improvements to the recycling program.

The rules and regulations, in addition to setting operating hours for the site, listing acceptable items for bins, listing prohibited items, and reminding residents of common courtesies, also brought to the table the idea of imposing fines for violations. Board members were open to this idea; and brainstormed with fines ranging from \$30 to \$100 to \$150. In addition, the amount of the fine should be relative to the seriousness of the offense.

The harshest of the three violations would be a non-resident using the site; and Council liaison Jerry Rice believed that for this offense graduated fines should be considered. That is, for first-time violators a \$50 fine would be issued, with a severe \$300 fine being warranted for two or more occurrences. The latter two infractions dealt with contaminating the bins with prohibited items and public littering by leaving items on the grounds outside the bins. Board members concurred with setting a \$50 fine for each of these violations, especially since both violations could likely be done by town residents.

The matter of who would enforce prosecution and collection of fines was a major concern. Ultimately, the Guilford County Sheriff's Department would need to be consulted and involved. Since the District II Sheriff's Office receives the agenda for Town Council meetings and is generally represented, this concern could be addressed at that time.

The Board then discussed another avenue to explore in getting the word out to residents and non-residents alike about the town's plan to curb recycling problems; that being, the suggestion to coordinate with the Whitsett Post Office a bulk mailing to all Whitsett PO postal route customers. The messages in the warnings and violations document and/or sign could be the basis of the mailer.

Even though this effort would be a massive undertaking, all Board members agreed it could open the eyes of many, especially the non-residents; and would inform Whitsett residents of the town's plight.

Chairman Maccia asked for a motion to approve these plans including the penalty amounts; and Vice Chairwoman Ella Efird made a motion to accept the fines and present the documents to the Town Council for review and feedback. Motion seconded by Board member Joe Wheeler; and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Any Other New Business

Board Chairman Maccia asked if anyone had any other new business to discuss; and no one did.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia invited a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Board member Joe Wheeler to adjourn; motion seconded by Board Vice Chairwoman Ella Efird. By unanimous vote, the September 7 meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

The next meeting of the Whitsett Planning Board is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at the Town Hall. [The October Board meeting was later cancelled, making the next Planning Board meeting to be held Wednesday, November 2.]

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Bob Maccia, Planning Board Chairman

APPROVED: November 2, 2011