

Cullowhee Planning Council

Minutes

February 6, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 101A – Camp Building, WCU

Members	Present	Absent	Members	Present	Absent	Members	Present	Absent
Rick Bennett		X	Myrtle Schrader		X	Jim Lewis	X	
Scott Baker	X		Joel Setzer	X				
Jack Debnam		X	Mike Wade	X		Mike Byers	X	

Others Present

Michael Poston, Planning Director
 Heather Baker, County Attorney
 Shelby Cook, Administrative Assistant
 Sandy Davis

Additions to Agenda

Chairman Scott Baker approved the agenda with no changes or additions.

Approval of the Minutes

Joel Setzer requested a change to “Planning Updates” regarding the Ledbetter Road connector project. Minutes were amended to reflect the need for pedestrian safety and relieve the traffic on a segment of Ledbetter Road by connecting it to Monteith Gap.

Jim Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9th, 2017 as amended. Mike Wade seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Sandy Davis – Sandy Davis was struck by a vehicle while running on Speedwell Road on December 1st, 2016, and she suffered a broken wrist. She’s afraid someone will eventually be killed on Speedwell Road, since many people walk and bike there. She has spoken to NCDOT about the traffic hazard, and thinks a couple possible solutions could be bike lanes or a one-way road.

Joel Setzer explained that DOT has looked at Speedwell Road for possible improvements in the past. They explored the one-way road option, but it would have caused some major re-configuration of driveways and earth work and would require lots of funding. Widening the road would be another costly option that could damage property and would require major earth work. DOT has a certain funding level, and the project would have to compete state-wide, where it’s not likely receive funding. Traffic could be reduced on the road by reinforcing the use of a transit system. As Mike Byers said, historically, WCU students have not used the off-campus transit, but that might change if parking passes were not given to students who live in student housing within a certain radius around campus.

Jim Lewis wants the Cullowhee Planning Council to be a lobby group for situations like this. Scott Baker gives a quarterly update to the Board of Commissioners, and could express the council’s desire to solve the traffic safety issue. Heather Baker said DOT has

worked with them to lower speed limits in the past, so that could be a possibility. Speed bumps are not likely.

New Business

a) Architectural / Design Review

The Cullowhee Community Planning Area Development Standards, Section 3-3^f, says the Cullowhee Planning Council shall appoint a Design Review Committee of at least 4 members of the council. Members should have some knowledge of design and construction. The Design Review Committee will review proposed developments/redevelopments in the Cullowhee Planning Area, and will make recommendations to the council regarding compliance with the standards set forth in the ordinance.

As Mike Poston explained, a project has not come up yet, but a proposed development on Speedwell Acres is going before the Jackson County Planning Board on February 9th, 2017. A Design Review Committee should be in place if the project comes up for review by the Cullowhee Planning Council. Heather Baker recommends the whole council sit as the Design Review Committee.

b) Appalachian Landslide Consultants

Appalachian Landslide Consultants of Asheville has been conducting a landslide field study for Jackson County. They would like to come to a Cullowhee Planning Council meeting to give a presentation and answer questions about their findings and progress. This will likely happen at the March meeting, which is currently scheduled for the 6th. The 6th - 10th is spring break week for Jackson County Schools, WCU, and SCC, so that meeting might be pushed back to March 13th.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Scott Baker adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shelby LeQuire Cook
Administrative Assistant - Planning



Scott Baker
Cullowhee Planning Council Chair