

Cullowhee Planning Council

Minutes

August 7, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 101A, WCU Cordelia Camp Building

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	

Staff Present

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

Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes or additions.

Approval of the Minutes

Jack Debnam made a motion to approve the minutes from July 10, 2017 with no changes or additions. Mike Wade seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

New Business

a) Comprehensive Transportation Plan update

Senior Planner at Southwestern Commission for Region A, Rose Bauguess, gave an update to the Council on Jackson County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). November of 2015 marked the beginning of the planning process of both the CTP and the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The comp plan was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 19th, 2017. The CTP is set to go before the Board of Commissioners on August 28th.

Five public meetings were held all over the County last fall, where the public was able to view, comment, and ask questions on the comp plan and CTP drafts. The comments gathered there were incorporated into the final versions of the documents. The CTP is now in its final stages, and the Council is invited to comment on it and endorse it before the Commissioners' meeting.

The CTP looks forward 20-30 years, using data to project numbers for future traffic in the County. The CTP attempts to look as far into the future as possible, and predict where the County will likely grow. The plan is essentially a long wish list of transportation-related projects – what roads need modernization and improvement, etc. Plans are updated periodically, usually every 5 to 10 years. This CTP is an update to the previous one from 2010.

Cullowhee is the fastest growing community in Jackson County, and the CTP tries to look ahead at how potential future development will affect traffic. As Rose explained, nearly every road in Cullowhee is listed in the plan as needing improvement. The Ledbetter Road extension project is not shown in CTP maps, but it is listed as a Major Project in the report, and it already has committed funding.

If anyone has suggestions for NCDOT, such as overgrown roads that need clearing, reports can be made at www.ncdot.gov.

Joel Setzer made a motion to endorse the Jackson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, recommending that the Ledbetter Road extension be taken off the list of major projects, the current extension plans be added, and the Centennial Drive traffic change be considered in the CTP. Myrtle Schrader seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jack Debnam recused himself from the vote.

Planning updates

The next Cullowhee Planning Council meeting falls on Labor Day. That meeting will likely be rescheduled to Monday, September 11th.

Mike Poston explained that the Planning Department has recently been introduced to some new building materials that aren't included in the Cullowhee architectural standards. Staff will be bringing some samples in to the council at an upcoming meeting.

There will be a joint Jackson County Unified Development Ordinance kick-off meeting for the Planning Board, Cullowhee Planning Council, and US 441 Planning Council on Tuesday, August 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the Department on Aging in Sylva.

Heather Baker explained that Mallory and Evans Development is in their appeal period. Also, the Board of Commissioners voted in favor of closing all non-essential County offices on August 21st for the solar eclipse.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Scott Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shelby LeQuire Cook
Administrative Assistant - Planning



Scott Baker
Cullowhee Planning Council Chair