

Cullowhee Community Planning Council

Minutes

May 5, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Department on Aging, Heritage Room

Sylva, NC

Members	Present	Absent	Members	Present	Absent	Members	Present	Absent
David Claxton	X		Karen Kandl	X		<i>Vacant</i>		
Mike Byers	X		Rebecca Manring	X		<i>Vacant</i>		
Chris Stuckey	X		Damon Sink	X				

Staff Present

Ashley Clapsaddle, Planner I

Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant III

Call to Order

Chairman David Claxton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Chris Stuckey made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Karen Kandl seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Rebecca Manring made a motion to approve the minutes from January 6, 2025. Karen Kandl seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment- Sign-up sheet- 3 minutes per speaker

There were no public comments.

New Business

a) Planning Updates

Ms. Clapsaddle provided an update and pictures to the Council regarding the Monteith Gap Road construction including the installation of the roundabout, bridge, and sidewalks. She updated that text amendments to add government recreation use as a permitting use to the Single Family and Single Family Manufactured Home districts had been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Cullowhee Planning Council and the Planning Board. The Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on May 6th at 5:55 p.m. at the Justice Center to consider those text amendments.

Ms. Clapsaddle discussed the Moss property plat and that the property had been acquired and noted that they did not own the road but would have access to use it. Next steps for the Greenway include finalizing the easement for the Rodgers property and the County attorney is currently working on that.

The Sazon project update was that it had received both zoning and architectural approval. Next steps for the project include obtaining building permits and environmental health permits. Also, the Cullowhee side path, which is located near Forest Hills that connects to the Cullowhee Recreation Center update was that NCDOT would be doing the project management. Next steps

include that NCDOT had started scoping discussions for the engineering documents to begin planning.

Another update included that May is National Historic Preservation Month and the Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission is hosting 2025 Historic Places Art Contest for any school aged children in the County. The required submission for the poster shall be 11 x 17 and are due to the Planning Department by May 20th by 4:00 p.m. The Commission now has a Linktree that includes information for the art contest along with any materials that they have produced for the public such as historic architectural surveys, historic coloring pages, etc. The link to the Historic Preservation Commission Linktree can be found on the Commission Facebook page.

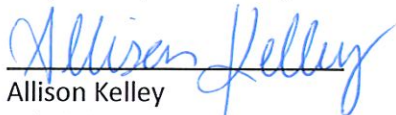
Mr. Claxton provided an update on the Cullowhee Community Garden that is funded by the Jackson County Department of Public Health is celebrating its 13th year. The garden includes 30 adopted plots, and has a waiting list for when a plot becomes available. The garden has a new solar shed that was funded by the Great Smokies Health Foundation, and an Eagle Scout volunteered to lead the project along with one of the gardeners that is a retired home builder. They also use solar power for the 200 gallon water tanks to water the garden plots and battery-powered equipment that reduces emissions and does not drain any electricity from the grid. The garden includes compost stations and anyone can drop off their kitchen scraps. Those with a garden plot agree to give half of their produce away to help those that are food insecure in the County. Last year they gave away 794 pounds of food from the garden. This year they have had 163 volunteers, mostly Western students and some adults that have given 440 hours. Within the garden they keep native plants, have a honey bee hive and there is a local birdwatching club that also utilizes the garden.

The Council expressed interest in considering to review the ordinance for places along the river that could potentially be developed into a gas station. Also, the Council asked if staff could look into the possibility of a flashing pedestrian light for the crosswalk near Rodgers Brothers.

Adjournment

With no further business, Rebecca Manring made a motion to adjourn. Chris Stuckey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Allison Kelley
Administrative Assistant- Planning



David Claxton
Planning Council Chair