

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF VINTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008, AT 7 P.M., AT JERSEY LILY'S  
ROADHOUSE GRILL ON ORANGE AVENUE, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Jones  
C.W. Pace, Jr.  
Bob Patterson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joan Drewery  
Dawn Michelsen

**STAFF PRESENT:** Anita McMillan, Planning and Zoning Director  
Karla Turman, Associate Planner/Code Enforcement Officer  
Julie S. Tucei, Planning and Zoning Coordinator  
Chris Lawrence, Town Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lindsay Blankenship, Roanoke County Planner II

**WORK SESSION AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Introduction of the New Planning Commissioner—Charles W. “C.W.” Pace, Jr.**
- III. Planning Commission Tentative Schedule of Meetings—January – December 2009**
- IV. Discussion of Vinton Area Corridors Plan**
- V. Proposed Amendments to the Sign Regulations**
- VI. Comments of Planning Commissioners and Planning Staff**
- VII. Adjournment**

The meeting of the Vinton Planning Commission was called to order at 6 p.m. Mr. Jones, Mr. Pace, and Mr. Patterson were present. Ms. Drewery and Ms. Michelsen were absent. Ms. McMillan introduced the new Commissioner, Mr. C.W. Pace, Jr., and welcomed him aboard.

The next item of business was discussion of the tentative meeting schedule. Ms. McMillan asked those present if the first Thursday of each month would work. Each member stated that, in general, the first Thursday would be fine. However, since the first Thursday in January falls on New Year's Day, the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> instead.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of the Vinton Area Corridors Plan. Ms. McMillan mentioned that she had given the Commissioners the same work plan as was given to the County, as well as providing them with other information and maps about the plan. She stated that the Vinton Area Corridor Plan would cover Vinton from the Roanoke City line to the Roanoke County line. She asked Ms. Blankenship, Roanoke County Planner II, to brief them on the plan. Ms. Blankenship said the plan would help define aesthetic improvements that can be made with landscaping along the corridors, as well as safety improvements and redevelopment opportunities. She updated them with an overview of the progress they had made on the plan to date. She stated that County and Town officials had recently held joint meetings to discuss the plan, and a presentation about the plan had been given to the Vinton Chamber at a recent

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meeting. Ms. Blankenship said the County Planners have also been working on a corridors inventory. She stated that Roanoke County GIS is currently mapping utilities and fire hydrants in the corridors. Mr. Lawrence asked Ms. Blankenship to find out if fire hydrant data, such as flow, could be included. Ms. Blankenship also gave an overview of the work plan, and stated that they hope to have the plan completed by mid-2009; however, the dates may be moved out to give additional time to work on it.

During the meeting, the Commissioners were also informed about some proposed amendments to the Sign Regulations. Ms. Turman gave a brief summary of each of the proposed changes to the ordinance, a copy of which she had included in their packet. She stated that the changes were “housekeeping issues” for now, and later they could look at additional revisions to the sign ordinance if they wished.

Mr. Jones commented on Cajun Connection Restaurant and their issue of lack of signage. He said he would like to see a definition of new businesses in the sign ordinance and special signage be allowed for new businesses. It was mentioned that new businesses are allowed to have a grand opening sign for 14 days at no charge. Mr. Jones would like to see an increase in the number of days allowed for a grand opening sign. He said that he would also like to see an increase in the number of times portable signs can be displayed during the year, but with an increase in the fees for portable signs.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita McMillan  
Planning Commission Secretary