

TOWN OF ABINGDON  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2009 - 5:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Abingdon Planning Commission was held Monday, March 23, 2009, at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, downstairs meeting room.

Mr. Kenneth Shuman, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Jackson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Kenneth Shuman, Chairman  
Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Gregory W. Kelly  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe  
Mr. Gary Kimbrell  
Dr. H. Ramsey White, Jr.  
Dr. Todd Pillion

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning/Zoning  
Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Director of Planning/Zoning  
Mr. Jim C. Smith, Director of Wastewater Operations/Town Engineer  
Mrs. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney

Visitors: Mr. J. J. Jessee  
Ms. Bonnie Jessee

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(2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – February 23, 2009

Mrs. Lowe ~~Kimbrell~~ made a motion that the minutes of the regular meeting, February 23, 2009 be approved with the following correction:

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**FROM:** Members Present: Mr. Kenneth Shuman, Chairman  
Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Gregory W. Kelly  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe  
Mr. Gary Kimbrell  
Dr. H. Ramsey White, Jr.

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Members Absent: Dr. Todd Pillion

**TO:** Members Present: Mr. Kenneth Shuman, Chairman  
 Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Vice-Chairman  
 Mr. Gregory W. Kelly  
 Mrs. Cathy Lowe  
 Mr. Gary Kimbrell  
 Dr. H. Ramsey White, Jr.  
**Dr. Todd Pillion**

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Members Absent: **None**

**AND**

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**FROM:** VOTE: Mr. Kelly Aye  
 Mr. Kimbrell Aye  
 Mrs. Lowe Aye  
 Mr. Bundy Abstained  
 Dr. White Aye  
 Mr. Shuman Aye

**TO:** VOTE: Mr. Kelly Aye  
 Mr. Kimbrell Aye  
 Mrs. Lowe Aye  
 Mr. Bundy Abstained  
**Dr. White Abstained**  
 Mr. Shuman Aye  
**Dr. Pillion Aye**

Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

The motion passed.

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(2) **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Bayrock Energy, John Howren, Owner, dba Wendy’s Restaurant, Bristol Sign Company, Inc., Representative, 499 Cummings Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to remove existing marquee sign and replace it with an electronic message center located at 499 Cummings Street. Tax Map No. 20 (12) 7.**

This application is requesting approval to remove the existing 5’ x 9’ marquee sign located at Wendy’s Restaurant, 499 Cummings Street, and replace the existing sign with an electronic message center, to be 3’ x 8’ in size. The proposed message center will have red lighting, with black trim, with sign to be mounted on existing steel.

In review of this application, it was noted that the size of the proposed sign does not fall within the Guidelines of the Sign Ordinance and it was recommended that the size of the sign be reduced to 15 square feet; also due to the heavily traveled area and number of traffic accidents which occur on Cummings Street, suggest that the lighting be changed from red to amber.

After discussion, Mr. Kelly made a motion that the Planning Commission deny the application as presented, but to authorize the applicant to bring back a new application that complies with the Sign Ordinance. Mrs. Lowe seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (3) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Abingdon High School, Jeff Noe, Representative, 705 Thompson Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210**; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to remove existing sign located east on property near adjacent “shop” building and replace it with electronic sign, **with property being located at 705 Thompson Drive. Tax Map No. 105 (A) 2.**

This application is requesting approval to remove existing sign located east on property near adjacent “shop” building at 705 Thompson Drive and replace the existing sign with an electronic sign.

The description of the proposed sign is that it will be 3’ x 5’ illuminated electronic with monochrome LED (17 mm), steel tubing, 4’ x 3’ aluminum pole cover; 3’ x 5’ illuminated cabinet with flat surface and vinyl graphics and acrylic faces; LED is will be 32 x 80 pixel matrix; 32mm pixel size (17mm pixel pitch); LED switch from amber or red monochrome. The overall size of the proposed sign will be 5’ x 11’, with background color of top be white with black (LED), with lettering color to be navy blue (school name), red or amber, with border color being navy blue. The sign will be mounted on a 4’ steel pole covered with 4’ x 3’ pole cover. (LED 15 sq. ft.; top sign will be 15 sq. ft. The sign will be placed on the east end at the current sign location. The wording on the sign will read “Abingdon High School”, with “Falcon logo”.

Mr. Jackson asked if Mr. Jessee thought the applicant would consider reversing the background color of the proposed sign from white to blue and lettering color to white. Mr. Jessee will consult with applicant regarding this matter.

It was the consensus of the Planning Commission that having the sign enclosed with brick would be much more appealing and suggested that the Washington County Technical School be contacted to do brick work.

After discussion, Dr. White made a motion that the Planning Commission deny the application as presented, but to authorize Mr. Jackson to contact Mr. Noe, with recommendation that the sign be enclosed with brick, similar to the sign located at the Coomes Recreation Center, allowing the applicant to bring back a new application for reconsideration. Dr. Pillion seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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DISCUSSION - Definitions for Zoning Ordinance Revisions

Mr. Jackson presented a complete set of new definitions for the Planning Commission to review and consider for inclusion in the revised Zoning Ordinance. He indicated these represented a combination of terms and uses as defined by the International Zoning Code, American Planning Association, Code of Virginia, as well as definitions used by other municipalities across the Commonwealth. Each definition was reviewed separately and members offered suggestions for modification on additional terms to include. Staff will revise these and return in April with the modifications. The new definitions reviewed by the Planning Commission are made a part of these minutes.

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There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded, with unanimous approval, that the meeting be adjourned.

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Kenneth Shuman, Chairman

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Gregory W. Kelly, Secretary