

TOWN OF ABINGDON
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 24, 2013 - 5:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Abingdon Planning Commission was held Monday, June 24, 2013 at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, downstairs meeting room.

Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Taylor called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Gregory W. Kelly
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mr. Wayne Austin
Mr. Gary Kimbrell

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Members Absent: Mr. Kenneth Shuman

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager
Director of Planning/Zoning (Absent)
Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Director of Planning/Zoning
Mrs. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney (Absent)
Mr. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction (Absent)
Mr. Jim C. Smith, Director of Wastewater Operations/
Town Engineer (Absent)
Mr. C. L. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer
Ms. Rebecca Moody, Environmental Planner/
Sustainability Coordinator

Visitors: Mr. Ray Viers, Pioneer Chevrolet
Mr. Kenneth Pope, Pioneer Chevrolet

(2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, May 29, 2013

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting, May 29, 2013, as presented.
Mr. Austin seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Austin Aye
Mr. Kimbrell Aye
Mr. Bundy Aye
Mr. Kelly Abstained

The motion passed.

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- (3) **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Harold Crabtree and Ken Pope (K&H LLC), dba Pioneer Chevrolet**, 1135 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of reconstruction and altering existing structure located at **1135 West Main Street. Tax Map No. 104 (A) 41.**

This is a request for approval to reconstruct and alter the existing structure located at 1135 West Main Street.

Mr. Ken Pope stated that due to General Motors Company requirements, it is necessary to reconstruct and alter the existing structure; to include extending the customer service canopy. The footprint of the existing structure will remain the same.

After discussion, Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the request and plans as presented. Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion.

VOTE:

- Mr. Howard Aye
- Mr. Austin ~~Aye~~ **Abstained (did not vote due to conflict of interest, for K&L LLC)**
- Mr. Kimbrell Aye
- Mr. Bundy Aye
- Mr. Kelly Abstained

The motion passed.

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- (4) **Comprehensive Plan Review – Environment and Quality of Life (Trees)**

The Comprehensive Plan Review included discussion and recommendations for the “Environment and Quality of Life” (Trees). The Town Arborist submitted the following information regarding the outcome of the tree inventory, as well as the Town canopy. The additions and changes are shown italicized as follows:

In 2007, a tree inventory was initiated using a matching grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry. This initiative *provided* technical information on the location of trees and *produced* a comprehensive tree management plan, which *evaluated* tree coverage, tree species utilization and *made* recommendations for improvements and changes. The inventory *was* completed in 2008.

The three year long tree inventory provided the Town with an accurate percentage of the different tree species that are on public property. It provided a general tree condition assessment that steered the Town Arborist toward specific individual specimens that the inventory believed to be in poor condition. The inventory also pointed out specific areas that would benefit from future planting efforts.

Tree canopy goals that include standards for preservation and planting of native trees based on zoning district and density are established and maintained as follows:

Urban Tree Canopy Reports

- *2011 USFS/VT Urban Tree Canopy Analysis: 26.3%*
- *2012 1-TREE Eco Report: 22.7%*

The difference is the 2011 report was on aerial photography analysis while the 2012 report was based on statistical sampling throughout the Town. The goal of the Town is to increase our UTC by 5% over the next 20 years. This may not seem like much until it’s taken into account the number of new trees that will need to be planted, not only to replace the trees that will be removed during this time period, but also to add to the canopy percentage. The vast majority of the UTC is located on private property and as such, the Town will need to encourage and provide incentives to private landowners to replace trees that have been removed and to add additional trees to increase the overall tree canopy. The Town of Abingdon does not subscribe to a policy of planting only native trees. There are a number of non-native, non-invasive trees that will thrive in this region and

not create any invasive harm to our landscape. Especially in light of the pests/diseases that are migrating into this region (Emerald Ash Borer, Thousand Cankers Disease, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Asian Longhorn Beetle, etc.) destroying significant portions of native trees in other regions of the country and have the capability of destroying similar significant portions of native trees in this area, a health diversity of native and non-native trees will help lessen the impact these pests will bring with them.

The above topic of invasive pests that have the potential to invade this area or are already here necessitates a diverse, comprehensive approach to pest management, including but not limited to, proper species planting, chemical and biological control methods, and public education. The arboricultural landscape industry is constantly introducing new tree species and cultivars that show promise with improvements over species limitations. The Town will need to stay abreast of these new cultivars and determine which might be of benefit to the Town.

It was agreed that if any modifications are to be made they can be incorporated in this study before being submitted to the Town Council.

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There being no further business, Mr. Kimbrell made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shuman, with unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned.

Matthew T. Bundy, Vice-Chairman

Gregory W. Kelly, Secretary