



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Environmental Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 3, 2009

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 3:30 pm at the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King St.

Committee members present: Dr. Richard DeSimone, Ms. Marijane Pell, Mr. Jim Fickes, Dr. Tom Davis, Mr. David Lowles, and Mr. Jeff Jennings.

Staff present: Ms. Alexis Baker, Ms. Katie Aultman, Mr. Anthony Starr, and Mr. Chuck McGrady.

Guest: Larry Rogers

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Committee member Dr. Richard DeSimone called the meeting to order in Mr. Ron Ehlinger's absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion was made to approve the minutes pending the change that "pipe emissions" be changed to "automotive tailpipe emissions". The motion was passed unanimously. Revised minutes will be posted in the EAC section of the Solid Waste website.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Richard DeSimone asked the committee if, in the upcoming year, they wanted to update the present agenda format. Mr. David Lowles suggested that committee stay cognizant of any new topics to come before the Board of Commissioners and adjust the agenda accordingly.

Planning Department: The Dana Planning Committee had its first public input session on November 9, 2009. The Committee collected information through surveys and small group discussions. They have also been conducting mail surveys throughout the Dana Community. The results of the survey will be in by the end of the year and will be presented at the next Dana Planning Committee in January. Edneyville draft plan has been published and is on website. The Planning Board and the Edneyville Planning Committee will have joint meeting on December

17, 2009 for the Edneyville group to present their report to the Planning Board which will eventually present the report to the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

Storm Water and Erosion Control: In October the BOC directed its staff to proceed with developing draft storm water regulations for their consideration. An initial set of draft regulations has been put together using the state storm water ordinance as a model. The BOC instructed the Planning Department to not exceed state standards. The Planning Board will have a meeting on December 3, 2009 to review that draft text.

Watershed Issues: There will be changes to watershed regulations. Watershed WS-3 and WS-4 allow special intensity allocations now. For up to 10% of these of those watershed projects can cover their site with up to 70% built upon area. That is nearly exhausted for the WS-3 area which is in the area of Mills River. The town has expressed interest in the High Density Option. That option removes the 10% cap and allows the town to raise the impervious surface built upon area limits. In exchange for that, they must do a storm water program. Mr. Chuck McGrady asked if Mills River was supportive of that. Mr. Anthony Starr's reply was that there was no response yet but, if they did not like the direction they were headed in, it could still be changed. Mr. Starr said that, after that evenings Planning Board Meeting, it should be ready for the BOC meeting on January 4, 2010.

Water Quality: Diane Silver will offer a water quality class beginning on Tuesday January, 12 from 6 to 9pm. The class will run for six weeks. Registration forms will be available soon. Mr. Chuck McGrady announced that he is in negotiations with Asheville and Saluda over water rights. There is a concern that Raleigh will come down and implement rules on local water basins that don't recognize the geographical differences in the state. Water issues seem to be the most important issue of the day according to Mr. Chuck McGrady. The City of Hendersonville is seeking to get water from the French Broad River. The issue is on the Agenda for the County Commission on Monday night. It is an issue because depending on where they pull the water from, it creates automatic water shed protection for some area upstream.

Energy: The County Engineer has sent a memo to the BOC announcing that they are looking to apply for a grant from the Federal Department of Energy from the Innovation Fund. If approved, the grant will finance energy efficient changes in the county.

Air Quality: This past season has been the best on record since air quality monitoring began in the area. However, regulations are changing and will soon be more stringent. Air quality is determined by state and federal agendas. Henderson County has very little area of ozone nonattainment. The area that is monitored and measured as nonattainment is in an area that is probably not even influenced by Henderson County.

New Business: Dr. Richard DeSimone asked if anyone was keeping track of nominations for EAC openings. Mr. Chuck McGrady announced that the term change over comes at the end of the fiscal year. There is a two term limit and each term is two years.

The next meeting will be January 7, 2010 at 3:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Ms. Katie Aultman

kaultman@hendersoncountync.org