

MINUTES
TELLICO PLAINS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Tellico Plains Community Center
Monday, April 13, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Mitch Millsaps, Chairman
Mike Atkins, Secretary
Patrick Hawkins, Mayor
Larry Harris, Alderman
Chad Johnson

Members Absent

Others Present

Ruth Viergutz Hawk, Staff
Greg Altum, Press
Frank Thurston, Surveyor
Don Green, Sr.

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Millsaps called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Harris moved to approve the March 9, 2015, minutes as submitted. Commissioner Atkins seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0, Mayor Hawkins and Commissioner Johnson not having yet arrived.

DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE TELLICO PLAINS MAJOR ROAD PLAN TO INCLUDE ROADS LOCATED IN THE TELLICO PLAINS PLANNING REGION AREA

Staff distributed copies of the current Major Road Plan for the Town, the Thoroughfare Classifications from the Land Use Plan, and a map of the planning region. A general discussion followed about how the roads within the town are currently classified, how the current State Route roads are currently classified, what the current roads function as, right-of-way needs for future roadway improvements, and how the Major Road Plan is tied with the Subdivision Regulations.

No action was taken. This will be further discussed at the next planning commission meeting.

DISCUSSION OF A PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS POINT TO THE TELLICO RIVER LOCATED OFF HIGHWAY 165/CHEROHALA SKYWAY

A public river access point located off Highway 165/Cherohala Skyway was recently discussed at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. The site, located at the old covered bridge location, appears to still be road right-of-way. Mayor Hawkins explained that the town is looking into grants to purchase more land and that eventually the town would like to construct restrooms on the site. Staff stated it appears the old right-of-way is owned by the State rather than the county. Staff expressed concern that parking on the site would block visibility of and access to the adjacent property. It also appears that because of the size, parked vehicles would need to back up onto Highway 165/Cherohala Skyway to exit the parking spaces. A general discussion about river access for recreational purposes followed.

No action was taken.

FUTURE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Staff reported that the East Tennessee Development District, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the UT Institute of Agriculture were hosting a joint training session at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge on June 30 on understanding topographic maps, soils and best management practices, sinkholes, wetlands and stream ecology. If interested in attending, please let staff know.

John Lamb, Director of Planning for Blount County, has offered to conduct a training session for all of the Monroe County planning commissioners. The training will likely be held at the Madisonville City Hall and the date will be dependent on Mr. Lamb's availability. The training, entitled "Population at the Speed of Life – Health Consideration in Growth, Planning, and the Built Environment" highlights health factors in population growth and change and explores the relation between health, planning and the built environment, and the core purposes of planning and other government functions.

REPORT ON MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAT REVIEW/APPROVAL

None

OTHER BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF CREATING AN ADVENTURE TOURISM DISTRICT IN TELLICO PLAINS

Mayor Hawking presented a map of the proposed Adventure Tourism district in Tellico Plains. The application is due to the State on April 15, 2015. The area will include the town and some of the planning region/growth boundary area. A general discussion about the advantages of designating an Adventure Tourism district in Tellico Plains followed.

No action was taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Secretary

Date