Caswell County Planning Board Meeting

November 23, 2021

**Members Present**:

Chairman Russell Johnston, Michael Poteat, Scott Oakley, Jason Daniel, Steven Harris, Ron Richmond, Jason Daniel, Commissioner Steve Oestreicher, Planning Director Matthew Hoagland, Development Services Coordinator Amy Lyle.

**Members Absent**: Don Swann, Antonio Foster.

**Called to Order**

Chairman Johnston called the November 23, 2021 Planning Board to order at 1:07 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the November Planning Board meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Hoagland read aloud the following public comment submitted by Caroline Laur:

“Please enter the following information into the Public Hearing appeals hearing for Watershed Protection Permit and S.N.I.A. Permit Appeal Hearing for 12971 NC Hwy 62, Burlington, NC.

My name is Caroline Laur.  My home is 200 feet from the proposed Asphalt/Cement Plant.  Duke Cancer Center diagnosed me with MGUS. A rare blood disease that predispositions me to a rare form of cancer known as Multiple Myeloma. Multiple Myeloma does not have a known cure; and is a terminal form of cancer.  Scientific research has linked many of the toxic chemicals to multiple myeloma. Their is a mother with two daughters, that has been diagnosed and is in remission with blood cancer, another neighbor with two lungs transplanted, a young man behind me that was born with two bad kidneys and has one good transplanted kidney today and is on anti-rejection medication for life. We have 101 citizens within a one mile radius from the proposed facility with series health issues. My community is in fear of the Cumulative Health Risk resulting from your permits. We are a marginalized community that does not have the funding to protect ourselves.

I am requesting that Caswell County Planning Department deny both permits due to the potential human health risk of toxic chemical exposure due to my health; in light of the scientific evidence from studies linking human health risk from these chemicals to my illness.  And in light of the scientific evidence; can Caswell county scientifically estimate the calculatedchemicaldose that is unlikely to cause an adverse (terminal) effect if I, or my neighbors are exposed to it through our drinking water, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, 200 feet from my home?”

She also included pages of information on cancer. They are attached.

**Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Oakley made a motion to approve the July 27th, September 17th Special Meeting, and the October 2021 Planning Board minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

1. **Watershed Review Board**

Bob Hornick, the acting attorney for the Watershed Review Board, was in attendance via Zoom. He stated that the Sunrock permits were issued in 2020, and neighbors have appealed the permit. Covid has delayed the hearings. There was a meeting on October 26th, 2021 but there was no quorum, so it was postponed again. He suggested that the hearing be continued until the next Planning meeting on January 25, 2022 so that all available Planning Board members could be in attendance. Mr. Johnston asked if permits are issued, and if they are appealed, the Planning Board is to review the appeal. Mr. Hornick stated that was correct. Mr. Johnston asked Mr. Hornick if he could tell why it was decided to continue to move forward with the appeal still in litigation. Mr. Hornick stated that it was because of due process. Mr. Johnston asked if all parties of the Planning Board must consent in order to conduct a hearing via zoom. Mr. Hornick responded yes. Mr. Johnston asked Mr. Hornick if it was his advice to continue the hearing until January 25, 2022. Mr. Hornick stated yes. Mr. Harris made a motion, upon legal advice from Mr. Hornick, to continue the hearing until January 25, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

**Planning Department Updates**

Mr. Hoagland asked the board members if they would prefer to cancel the December 28th, 2021 meeting due to it falling in the middle of the holidays and because they had just postponed the appeals hearing until January 2022. He also asked the board members when they may want to review the Comprehensive Plan. The board is supposed to review the Comprehensive Plan annually but it was bumped from the agenda this year due to the appeals. Chairman Johnston told Mr. Hoagland that they would try to make room for it on the agenda once the appeals had been completed. Mr. Daniel made a motion to not have the December 28, 2021 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.