



TOWN OF OCCOQUAN
Town Hall – 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
MEETING DATE: 2020-01-28

MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

Present: Darryl Hawkins, Ann Kisling, Eliot Perkins, Ryan Somma

Absent: Jenn Loges

Staff: Kathleen Leidich, Town Manager; Katy Nicholson, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Planning Commission Public Hearing was called to order by Eliot Perkins on 2020-01-28, at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary for Meeting

Ryan Somma took minutes for the meeting.

2. Citizen Comments

Walter Seiberling of Occoquan noted he would have comments on certain items on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes December 10, 2019

Ann Kisling moved to approve the December 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Darryl Hawkins seconded. The motion carried.

4. Planning Commission Priorities Update

o Noise Ordinance

Occoquan citizen Walter Seiberling said he had looked over the Virginia Beach, Prince William County, and state ordinances. He requested that the Town keep the ordinance as simple as possible as they can get very complex. He said the Town should look at how the ordinance melds with current Town ordinances and was concerned about big bureaucracy. Eliot Perkins agreed the ordinance should be simple, but also legally enforceable. The Town would work with Town Attorney to keep it simple.

o Beautification, Town Entrances, Streetscaping

Eliot Perkins noted the many accomplishments the Town and Planning Commission had made on this effort. The Town entrance was cleaned up, with grass and trees planted there. There were flowers and bushes at Commerce and Washington streets, flowers at Mami Davis Park, landscaping at the Service authority building, Town Hall, and at River Mill Park. He then asked for members opinions on the progress and what a phase two might look like.

Anne Kisling said the flowers looked good, and to maybe put historical pictures, information for people to look at the Service Authority building. Eliot Perkins added that for a phase two there could be additional enhancements for entrance, such as flowers around the Town sign. This stressed the importance of getting volunteers to help. Ryan Somma noted there were many volunteers for the new trail at the top of Tanyard Hill and there were many landscaping enthusiasts in town.

Anne Kisling suggested flowers around the Town gaslights. Eliot Perkins agreed, noting that cost and maintenance were challenges. Darryl Hawkins suggested putting the closest shop owner in charge of taking care of flowers on posts, noting this is how it's done in other areas. Anne Kisling suggested talking to someone in Old Town Alexandria to learn how they do it. Eliot Perkins asked Anne Kisling to ask Old Town Alexandria how they do it and the Commission will put costs together.

On the subject of a sign for the Town entrance, there was a consensus that the Monument Sign was a winner of the options Darryl Hawkins presented. Eliot Perkins said it was an homage to Town History with a modern look.

Darryl Hawkins said the curved sign would make it visible from both directions. The Monument design combined parts and pieces of all of other designs. Where the wording in the sign is, the Town could use same material as Occoquan Regional Park with nothing behind it. Eliot Perkins said it would be possible to put lighting behind it. Darryl Hawkins said the steel is laser cut, and the cut-out letters could be reused.

Eliot Perkins asked about the sign location. Ryan Somma said the new entrance is primary.

Eliot Perkins asked about what to do with existing signs. Could the 123 sign be replaced? He asked Town Staff to research what VDOT would allow Town to put there. Ann Kisling asked if a sign was even need there. Darryl Hawkins agreed that one wasn't needed. Kathleen Leidich noted the existing sign falls apart regularly. Eliot Perkins said there were brown signs for Historic Occoquan. Ann Kisling noted there were wraps to cover electric boxes in some communities, like Arlington. She asked if a mural could be painted on the wall at Commerce and Washington. The group was in agreement that the old sign wasn't needed there was a new sign and functional brown signs.

Eliot Perkins said the Commission's primary recommendation is to start with 123 and Commerce for the first sign, then a second at Tanyard and Old Bridge, and a third at Commerce and Washington. There was a group consensus on proceeding with the Monument Sign.

There was a question about having a gas light on the Monument sign and the cost associated with that. Kathleen Leidich noted the Town plans to do away with gas lights in the coming years.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Eliot Perkins: Perkins
Chair, Planning Commission

Submitted by Ryan Somma, Planning Commission Secretary