

Morgan County Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Jack Soronen, Scott Swaim, Carl Cowgill, George Didawick, Robert White, Wayne Omps, Jim Hoyt, Susan Parker, Eric Larue, Stacy Dugan.

Members absent: Brian Carter.

II. MEETING MINUTES

On a Susan Parker/Scott Swaim motion, the minutes from the January 28, 2014 Planning Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Town of Bath Planning Commission
Rebecca MacLeod

Rebecca MacLeod, representing the Town of Bath Planning Commission, approached the Commission to discuss two things:

1. The Town's establishment of a Planning Commission.
2. Cooperation between the Town and County Planning Commissions.

Ms. MacLeod stated that the newly formed Commission is moving forward with drafting a Comprehensive Plan that will meet West Virginia Code requirements. They are also looking at establishing stormwater management regulations. The members serving on the Town of Bath Planning Commission are Larry Lower, Jeff Thatcher, Scott Merki, Susan Webster and herself. Matthew Pennington from Region 9 Planning and Development Office will assist as staff.

A section of the Town of Bath's Code states that an advisor must come from the county Planning Commission to work with the Town's Planning Commission. This member is a non-voting member and will serve as a liaison between the two planning commissions. The West Virginia Code also mentions the cooperation between county and municipal planning commissions.

The West Virginia Code incorporated a deadline of June 2014 into Chapter 8A for adopting new comprehensive plans or updating existing plans. Not meeting this deadline could create the inability for local governments to enforce existing land use regulations currently in effect.

The newly formed Town Planning Commission has established an ambitious schedule to complete their comprehensive plan. They are looking at October 2014 to have a finished product. The county's liaison would continue to serve after the completion of the plan.

Jack Soronen, President of the County Planning Commission, stated that a yearly review by the Planning Commission would be done to renew the assignment.

Planning member Eric LaRue offered to serve as the county representative on the town's planning commission but stated that his work schedule especially during the summer could cause him to miss some meetings. Jack Soronen offered to serve as an alternate when Eric could not attend. Meetings will be held at Town Hall.

On a Scott Swaim/Susan Parker motion, the Morgan County Planning Commission agreed to have Eric LaRue serve as the county's designee to the Town of Bath Planning Commission with Jack Soronen serving as an alternate. Motion carried.

IV. PHASED PRELIMINARY PLAT – EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS

A. Michael Farm Phased Preliminary Plat

Staff informed the members that the developer of Michael Farm Subdivision has requested not to move forward with requesting an extension of time for submitting the first phase preliminary plat for this subdivision. Staff will notify the developer in July once deadline has expired.

B. Review of remaining Phased and Preliminary Plat deadlines.

Staff provided the members a listing of phased and preliminary plat subdivision projects that are currently active with upcoming deadlines. The developers have been notified in writing of the approval deadlines and should they wish to extend or renew, a written request to the Planning Commission is required. Staff had indicated that two requests have been received and will be scheduled for the May 27th meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.