

MINUTES OF THE DARE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MEETING

The Dare County Planning Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 13, 2000. This meeting was held in the Dare County Administrative Annex building located at 204 Ananias Dare Street in Manteo, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT Elmer R. Midgett, Jr. – Chairman
Jon Britt
Marcia Parrott
Joe Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT Joe Kierzkowski
John Myers
Mary Aldridge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no additions or deletions to be made to the minutes of the February 14, 2000 Planning Board meeting a motion to dispense with reading them and to approve them as submitted was made by Joe Thompson, seconded by Jon Britt.

Vote: Ayes – Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED DRAFT LIGHTING ORDINANCE FOR VC DISTRICT IN DUCK

Ms. Lilius Morrison representing the Duck Community and Business Alliance (DCBA), was present to discuss a proposed draft Lighting Ordinance.

Planning Director, Ray Sturza referenced staff comments provided in Planning Board packet. He told the board that the staff reviewed language in the proposed ordinance and concludes that the ordinance is very comprehensive and is a bit beyond what the staff is accustomed to in terms of the Dare County Code. He stated that it would probably be more effective if the proposed ordinance was done in conjunction with a site plan review or some other specific means of enforcement. He reminded the Board that the County does not have a site plan review ordinance.

Mr. Sturza also noted that the generality of some of the language in the proposed ordinance has the potential to create problems with interpretations of the actual verbiage.

In Mr. Sturza's written comments he stated that in considering this proposal it is important to remember the intent of outdoor lighting. He stated that the purpose of outdoor lighting is to provide security and safety in parking lots or other external sites to a structure. He stated that the proposed amendment should be evaluated based on the effects on public safety and security.

Ms. Morrison told the Board that the DCBA (Duck Community Business Alliance) is interested in the preservation of the coastal character of the village atmosphere of Duck. She stated that well designed, consistent and functional lighting could create an ambiance and character enriching the experience of those that live in Duck as well as those that visit.

LAND OF BEGINNINGS

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Ms. Morrison stated that the purpose of the proposed ordinance is to set standards for outdoor lighting, the illumination of buildings, landscaping, lighting of parking areas, entrances, loading zones, and the lighting of signs.

Mr. Ron Forlano told the Board that the business community of Duck was informed of the proposed text amendment, but he never saw it until 3 o'clock this afternoon. He stated that developing an ordinance for lighting is a great idea, but feels the proposed ordinance needs some fine-tuning with regard to time limits for compliance, lighting specifications.

Mr. Forlano commented that in riding through Duck this evening the only one business that was in total compliance with this proposed ordinance was Real Escapes. He stated that their lights were off because they were not operating.


Board members discussed the various components of the proposed Lighting ordinance and requested the Duck Community and Business Alliance prepare a brief bibliography of the references used as guidelines in developing the proposed ordinance and possibly provide some examples of the various types of lighting that are referenced in the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Morrison stated that she thinks that is achievable and will work on providing this information for the Board's review possibly at the next meeting.

There being no further business before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Jon Britt, seconded Marcia Parrott.

Vote: Ayes – Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline J. Tillett, Clerk
Dare County Planning Board

APPROVED: April 10, 2000



Elmer R. Midgett, Jr. – Chairman
Dare County Planning Board