

Richlands Planning Commission Joint Meeting with IDA October 27, 2021

Members Present

Randy Smith
Richard Smith
Elliot Joyce
Craig Earls
Cody Elswick
Blake Ray
Jannis White
Gary Jackson

Staff and Town Officials

Present
John O'Daniel
Ashley Harris
Nathan Keen

Guests

Laura Mollo

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Smith at 7:30 pm.
2. Jannis White gave the invocation; Randy Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. The agenda was presented. There were amendments to update the date and change ZBA to The Planning Commission; Jannis made the motion to accept the agenda as amended; Craig seconded the motion. All members voted "aye" and the agenda was accepted.
4. Next moved to zoning workshop and discuss the RFP. John talked about the work that had been done by Ashley Harris and the staff for this RFP. Also discussed some of the issues we have had in the past with the current Land Use Ordinance and Zoning Map. Spoke on how the IDA wished to give ideas to help move forward with ideas for these updates. Blake spoke on wanting to pull more land in with a boundary adjustment. All spoke on the new fish farm creating jobs and how the town needed to improve infrastructure. To help support those people with housing. The county has laid the groundwork, so we need to think about what we can do to bring in more businesses in the town. All talked on what would need to be changed/updated in the land use ordinance that will help with enforcement and if we would like to continue with this RFP or use the money elsewhere.
5. Craig Earls made a motion that we expedite an RFP for the land use ordinance updates. Seconded by Elliot Joyce. All voted "AYE". Motion passed.
6. New Business: Talked about bringing in new businesses to town like a Data Center. Talked about our infrastructure and how it would not handle so much data movement and electricity use currently. Talked about the direction the IDA committee is wanting to head in the future and work on. Also talked about how the IDA and Planning Commission need to start more communications and work together in the future. Talked about the differences in Historic District and Historic Zones. We currently have a historic district by no historic zoning.
7. Old Business: Talked about the Greenway/Walkway and other issues The Planning Commission and the Greenspace that the IDA had been working on. Blake spoke on wanting to pull more land in with a boundary adjustment. He also spoke on the new fish farm creating jobs and how the town needed to improve infrastructure. To help support those people with housing

and their water needs. The county has laid the groundwork, so we need to think about what we can do to bring in more businesses in the town.

8. With no other business, Randy made the motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Elliot and all members voted "aye". Meeting was adjourned.
9. The next meeting for the Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 5:15 pm which will be a joint meeting with the Town Council.

Submitted by: Michelle Elswick, Secretary