

Town of Oriental Planning Board Meeting
July 28, 2009

The Oriental Planning Board met on Tuesday, July 28, at 7:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall.

Present were: Board members: Marlowe, Barton, Cordes and Creighton
Commissioner Cox and Mayor Sage
Long Range Planning Committee member Sage
Town Manager Cahoon
Recording Secretary Wagoner

MINUTES APPROVAL–

MOTION: Mr. Barton made a motion to approve the June 30, 2009 minutes.
Second by Mr. Creighton. Vote 4-0.

BROAD STREET GRILL – Mr. Eric Strickrath, owner of the grill, was asked to attend the meeting to discuss new signage he recently added. After a brief discussion Mr. Strickrath was told to submit a permit for the sign and to lower it by 1 foot.

The large sign made out of lattice at the Village Square, where the grill is located, was also discussed. It was the general consensus of the board that the sign has been in disrepair for a long time and has become an eyesore. The board asked that Mr. Cahoon talk to the owner of the complex to see about having it removed. Mr. Strickrath was in agreement and stated that the lattice sign, together with the straw trailer and new propane tank at the hardware store next door, makes it difficult to see his restaurant.

PARKING REVIEW – Mr. Marlowe asked the board to review the parking ordinance with emphasis on the marinas. He felt that the first step would be to revisit the definition of ‘marina’.

MOTION: Mr. Marlowe made a motion to table the discussion on parking for marinas until the next meeting. Second by Mr. Barton. Vote 4-0.

DEFINITIONS - The board discussed the need to update Article XVI – Interpretations and Basic Definitions.

MOTION: Mr. Barton made a motion to have him work on the definitions for Hotel, Motel, Condotel, Inn and Marina and to present them at the next meeting. Second by Mr. Cordes. Vote 4-0.

GREENING UP THE GMO – MS. Wagoner stated that municipalities are being encouraged to promote ‘green planning’ and presented a handout from the American Planning Association outlining ways to do this. Mr. Barton stated that that should be something within the Vision Statement. The board will review the material and discuss at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Mrs. Sage stated that a lot of thought went into the parking ordinance and warned the board to be careful to not over regulate parking. She also reported that the Long Range Planning Committee has just about completed the Vision Statement and it will be presented to the commissioners by the end of August. Once the vision is approved the LRPC will have a list of recommendations for the Planning Board on how to integrate the vision into the GMO.

She has also been involved with two other county committees; "STEPS Grant" with the Town of Bayboro (this a grant to help Bayboro with economic development. That committee expanded it to include any other town that wished to be a part of it) and, "Countywide Pride Stakeholders" with the Pamlico Community College. As both of these committees have very similar goals there will be a meeting on August 20 at the Delamar Center from 5:30 – 7:30 pm to discuss merging the two groups. She encouraged the Planning Board members to attend.

Mayor Sage also commented on the parking issues the town experiences especially during festivals and regattas and, that some businesses have virtually no parking and it is important to accommodate them as best as possible. He also clarified how 'condotels' are operated and stated that they would have to comply with either the hotel or motel definition.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

REVIEW OF LAND USE AND SIGN PERMITS – There were none to review

The next meeting is scheduled for August 25. Mr. Barton stated that he will not be able to attend that meeting.

There being no further business;

MOTION: Mr. Creighton made the motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Cordes. Vote 4-0.

William Marlowe, Chairman

Lori Wagoner, Recording Secretary