



**TOWN OF OCCOQUAN  
PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Town Hall - 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125

**MEETING DATE: 2024-02-27**

**MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM**

**Present:** Chairperson Eliot Perkins, Commissioners, Darryl Hawkins, Ann Kisling, Bob Love, Ralph Newell, Don Wood

**Remote:** Ryan Somma

**Town Staff:** Matt Whitmoyer, Deputy Town Manager; Adam Linn, Town Manager

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

**2. Citizen Comments**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

a. January 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Love brought up two issues. The third page needed to include that Occoquan does not have jurisdiction across the river concerning parking and it needs to be included that Economic Development will be included in the Planning Commission's recommendations.

Commissioner Kisling motioned to approve the minutes with the two inclusions. Commissioner Newell seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**4. Reports**

a. Town Council Report

Chairperson Perkins said he had meetings with individuals for NVRC and Nova Parks concerning a path under the 123 Bridge including a walk under the proposed path with Supervisor Stewart of Fairfax County.

b. Deputy Town Manager Report

Town Council is addressing three items, land use density, resolution in support of the TLC grant and assistance with the Riverwalk, and drainage work with Fairfax Water. There is a new Town Seal. Commissioner Kisling's reappointment to the Planning Commission was approved.

c. Architectural Review Board Report

No updates.

## **5. Action Items**

### a. Request to Review Town Council Items Relating to Potential Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Commissioner Love moved to direct the Zoning Administrator to prepare a report evaluating the three items and making recommendations on potential actions for the Planning Commission to consider at its March 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Kisling seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **6. Work Session**

### a. Strategic Planning Report Drafting Session

Chairperson Perkins asked everyone to start at the end of the process, which is what the Planning Commission is asking Town Council to do. The Commission must do its due diligence. For example, items under Placemaking and Beautification need to list how much they are going to cost and staff time.

Mr. Whitmoyer presented the initial matrix of consolidated recommendations. There was a discussion about the consolidation, what items were removed, what items were feasible, and prioritization. Commissioner Wood asked about consistent formatting for the report presentation to make the information easily accessible. Chairperson Perkins gave an overview of the formatting.

Chairperson Perkins said each report emphasized the importance of promoting the Town's features and asked the Commissioners what was expected of Town Council concerning this. There was a discussion of the Trail Town items, including signage and Tanyard Hill park. Commissioner Love recommended 1B and 1C be prioritized first. Commissioner Somma said 1F, Trails Day, was more of a long-term action item. Tanyard Hill Park maintenance did not need budgeting and could be accomplished with volunteers. Chairperson Perkins said connecting the Occoquan Greenway to Tanyard Hill park might be accomplished by the County. Commissioner Newell asked if Occoquan can simply declare itself a Trail Town, and that Damascus Virginia had done so. Chairperson Perkins said such a declaration could be timed to maximize its impact.

For Parking and Transportation, Chairperson Perkins noted the OmniRide connection to Occoquan needed more research and clarification. The Biking Infrastructure defines Bike Friendly Community status and bike rack enhancements. Commissioner Love noted the county designated Tanyard Hill Road a bike trail and that it is very dangerous and could the Town petition the county about the safety of the trail. Chairperson Perkins noted the connections to Occoquan Regional Park and the importance of connecting to all the upcoming regional attractions and the trail under the 123 Bridge. Concerning Parking Outside of Town, with Fairfax County there may be potential with the trail and unused road. Traffic Calming measures are already happening, so he doesn't know that we are adding to the discussion. Commissioner Hawkins said the recommendations were in addition to existing measures.

For Public Health, Chairperson Perkins noted the existing water testing and health of the river. He recommended expanding education to include many more subjects. There was a discussion about

14A, reducing waste materials in restaurant operations, about the role of government and education. There was a discussion concerning an awards system for environmentally-friendly businesses, glass recycling, gas lights, Prince William County's sustainability plan, and tree management in Town. For Public Art, Chairperson Perkins gave an overview of action items such as reaching out to the community, photographing potential areas for improvement, and the Nova Arts and Culture initiative. There was an overview of the Placemaking initiatives and the Economic Development initiatives.

Chairperson Perkins asked Commissioners to review the items and recommend adding or removing from the list, in each Commissioner's area they need to determine the costs of each item by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **7. Discussion Items**

None.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm

*Minutes Prepared by Commissioner Somma, Planning Commission Secretary*