

Public Hearing

Date January 16, 2007

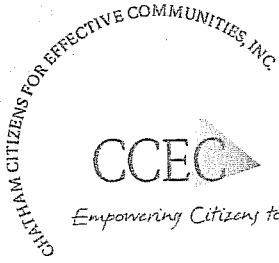
Item # 18

Proposed Text Amendments to the Chatham County Ordinance Establishing the Planning Board: Section 1, Appointment and Compensation, to increase the number of Planning Board members; Section 2, Organizations, Rules, Meetings and Records, to allow the Board of Commissioners to remove Planning Board members without cause; Section 2(I) to make a technical correction; and Section 4, Annual Report of Activities, to revise reporting procedures.

LEGISLATIVE HEARING

Each speaker must sign up in advance of the hearing and his/her comments shall be limited to not more than three minutes. No speaker may yield unused time to any other speaker. The maximum length of any legislative hearing shall be not more than 30 minutes for the proponents in support of a request and not more than 30 minutes for those in opposition.

Check One		Name	Complete Address with Zip Code	Phone Number
For	Against			
X		Robert Eby	19 E. Madison Pittsboro 27312	542-5485
X		Rosa Spina	12 Hatchwood P.H.S 27312	932-3132
	X	KARL ERNST	711 RED OAK DR SILVER CITY NC	663 2659
	X	Larry Ballas	139 Tucker Creek in party	362 0094
X		Larry Hicks	138 Poplismom Hill Pittsboro NC 27312	968-0508
X		Jeffrey Starkweather	590 Old Goldsmith Rd. Pittsboro NC 27312	545-8978
X		Walter Handley	136 Rocky Falls Randolph 27330	994-8999
		Heather Johnson	321 LC Farm Rd Pittsboro 27312	918 7570



Commissioners, my name is Robert N. Eby. I live at 19 East Madison, Pittsboro and am a board member of CCEC.

I support the intent of your proposed revisions to the ordinance that establishes a Planning Board for Chatham County. In particular, I agree that a new member of the Board of Commissioners should have the opportunity to recommend replacing his / her appointees on the Planning Board and be able to do so with the approval of a majority of the members of the BoC.

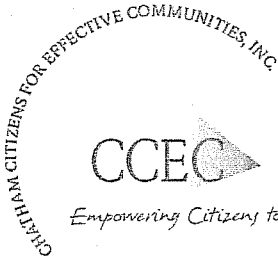
I do not agree, however, that this opportunity should be available forever. I have a concern that highly qualified citizens may be reluctant to volunteer to serve on the Planning Board, if they feel that they might be replaced at any time. I would suggest, therefore, that the ability to recommend the replacement of a sitting member of the Planning Board be limited to first 120 days after a new member of the BoC takes office.

As an alternative idea, you might consider resetting the term of office for Planning Board members such that they coincide with the term of office of BoC members. Thus a Planning Board member's term would be expiring at the same time that the term of the Commissioner who recommended his / her appointment expires.

Thank you,

Bob Eby
Board Member CCEC

Jan. 16, 2007



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Board of Commissioners:

Ref.: Public Hearing on Revision to Ordinance Establishing the Planning Board

Sometimes we need a little levity....

I would like to make a recommendation for a change of wording in Section 1, Appointment and Compensation of the Ordinance. This wording was in the prior Ordinance and in all probability has been this way since it was first written and sounds like another era...or error.

The last sentence in this section has an incorrect word that needs to be changed: It presently reads, "Appointments shall be made in such a manner that Planning Board members shall represent in so far as practical, the geographical, socioeconomic, sexual and racial makeup of the county".

I checked with a Professor of English....who laughed and agreed with what I found in The Oxford English Dictionary which refers to the word sexual as "sexual intercourse, or to physical attraction or contact between individuals". (I don't think this is what you are really looking for on the Planning Board!!) The Dictionary will help us all out. The appropriate word to use here is gender; "the state of being male or female - with reference to social or cultural differences; the members of one or another sex".

I believe the "Founding Fathers" would be happier with gender.

Thank you.


Rita K. Spina, PhD
V.P., CCEC

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Planning Department Issue

BOC Meeting, Jan. 16, 2007

*I live at
136 Rocky Falls*

My name is Kathleen Hundley, and as its' Vice President, I represent The Friends of the Rocky River (FORR), an environmental citizens group in Chatham County for over 20 years.

I will speak to role of the planner; Board rather than committee of the board.

Regarding the need for an environmental assessment of the impact on the natural area prior to construction of new developments within the water basin of the Rocky River, FORR supports the requirement of an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), an in-depth study for any / all development of the projected impact for the long-term future of the geographic area as opposed to preparing the present simple Environment^{al} Assessment of minor changes, but not projected problems, anticipated in the immediate^{ly} future. The developer would be required to pay for the EIS and any related study or projection.

FORR also supports the organization of an Environmental Committee to advise and make recommendation to the BOC on environmental issues. These recommendations would include

1. setting the criteria for and standards with which any developer requesting approval to construct within Chatham County and particularly the Rocky River water basin would comply when preparing the EIS. Standards would be set on a projection of impact based on present trends, i.e. in 10 *or more* years from now, based on what's presently happening in

the county, what would the impact of this requested development be on the health of the county and on the Rocky River basin?

2. Reviewing any/all EIS reports to determine compliance or non-compliance with stated standards.
3. Deciding and recommending policy regarding any impact on the environment for ALL development within the County, commercial, industrial, or private.
4. Enforcing the above with penalties for non-compliance that would be felt by the developer regardless of wealth, size or reputation.

Many of us moved to Chatham County because of its quiet beauty and low population density, and we want it to retain at least some of those qualities in the face of major immigration to the State of NC from within the country and beyond. IF we want to keep what is best about Chatham County, the time is NOW to set our own standards to protect the environment and to insist that those standards be met. In the recent past, little has been required or enforced in the way of standards to protect the infrastructure or environment and waterways within the county. FORR supports the premise that If a developer wants to build in Chatham County, he should be willing to build on OUR terms, not expect that we approve building on HIS terms.

Thank you for your attention.