

Members Present

Randy Smith

Richard Smith

Rod Cury

Gaynelle Thompson

Virginia Hart

Staff and Town Officials Present

Tim Taylor

Adrienne Cordle

Kevin Blankenship

Guests:

Rick Chitwood

Greg Widener

- I. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Richard Smith (who conducted the meeting until Chairman Randy Smith arrived). Gaynelle Thompson gave the invocation and Rod Cury led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. The Agenda was presented. Rod Cury made the motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Gaynelle Thompson. All members voted “aye” and the agenda was accepted.
- III. Minutes from the September 3, 2019 meeting were distributed. Gaynelle Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rod Cury. All members voted “aye” and the minutes were approved.
- IV. New Business: Review of the Clinch River Walking Trail Project
 - Rick Chitwood and Greg Widener from Thompson & Litton gave their Preliminary Engineering Report for the Trail Project. This included the outline of the 3 phases of the project and cost analysis.
 - Round table discussion took place focusing on possible obstacles that the project would face in terms of geographic features and landowners.
 - There was also discussion of possible funding sources that are available for this type of project and the resource agencies and other people who are knowledgeable about such funding.
 - Emphasis was placed on making sure that the community gets involved in the project. Also, the first phase needs to be a “Wow!” to be sure that citizens and organizations see how beneficial the project will be to Richlands.
 - Other factors involved in the project such as the permitting needed, revisiting the property owners who will be affected, and scheduling informational meetings for the community were discussed.
 - It was decided that the next step will be to hold a joint workshop with Town Council and other key players to present the engineering report and answer questions. The date of this will be set after the Town Council meets for their monthly meeting on October 8, 2019.

V. Old Business:

Members were reminded of the Joint Public Hearing scheduled with Council at 7 PM next Tuesday, October 8, 2019 regarding the rezoning of Jerry Dunford's property on Birmingham Road.

- VI. With no further business to discuss Rod Cury made the motion to adjourn and Gaynelle Thompson seconded the motion; all members voted "aye" and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned. The next scheduled meeting date will be October 29, 2019 at 7:30 PM due to Election Day on the first Tuesday in November.

Submitted by: Virginia Hart, Secretary