



**CONSERVATION EASEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Stephanie Ferrell, Chair
Ron Simpson, Acting Secretary
Debbie Shoenfeld
Aleksandra Gill

Staff Present

Sandra Smith, Assistant Town Mgr./Town
Clerk
Sean Taylor, Planning & Zoning Director

Ann Schneider (Council Liaison)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Easements Committee of the Town of Oak Ridge was held in the conference room of the Town Hall at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Stephanie Farrell, Ron Simpson, Debbie Shoenfeld, and Aleksandra Gill. Also in attendance were Councilwoman Ann Schneider, Council Liaison to the Committee; Sean Taylor, Town Planning Director; and, Sandra Smith, Assistant Town Manager

- Stephanie Farrell, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order. The Committee then unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting adding a new item concerning the Coleman Schoolhouse Property. The minutes of the prior meeting of the Committee on August 24, 2024 were also approved.
- The Committee discussed the two pending CORE grant applications: the application for the Jack Blaylock property (2150 Beeson Road), and the application for the Nydorf/Hammond Property (1815 Oak Ridge Road). The Jack Blaylock property is being surveyed and is progressing through the Piedmont Land Conservancy easement process. As to the Nydorf/Hammond Property, as previously reported, the owners are first pursuing listing on the National Register of Historic Places. National Register application is a lengthy process. Upon completion the owners plan to continue the preservation easement process with Preservation North Carolina.
- The Committee members were advised previously that the owners of the historic Old Mill of Guilford are planning to sell the property. The Committee has long hoped to obtain a preservation easement on the property but has thus far not been successful. The decision of the owners to sell adds urgency to the matter and Council liaison Ann Schneider will again contact Preservation North Carolina (PNC) and the mill owners in the hope that a framework for an agreement can be reached with all due haste.
- The Committee was advised that the Alma Blaylock property (8250 E. Harrell Rd.) is progressing to a favorable resolution. Piedmont Land Conservancy has obtained a financial grant to fund the bulk of the acquisition cost with the Town of Oak Ridge contributing up to \$40,000 to support the PLC land acquisition.

- The Committee briefly discussed the Nixie Coleman/Morningview School property. The owner has expressed strong interest in a preservation easement but may wish first to subdivide off a portion of the land.
- Member, Debbie Shoenfeld, announced that for personal reasons she plans to resign from the Committee. Her original appointment was based on her membership on the Historic Preservation Committee. She offered to ask if any other member of the HPC would be interested in applying to take her place.

The Committee determined that its next meeting will be held on November 20, 2024, at 1:00 in the conference room of the Town Hall.

The meeting was then adjourned.
Ron Simpson, Acting Secretary

Respectfully Submitted:

Ron Simpson
Acting Secretary

Stephanie Ferrell
Chair