

Minutes of the Conservation Easement Committee, March 20, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Easement Committee of the Town of Oak Ridge was held in the conference room of the Town Hall at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Stephanie Farrell, Ron Simpson, Debbie Shoenfeld, Aleksandra Gill, and Miles Foy. Also in attendance were Councilwoman Ann Schneider, Council Liaison to the Committee; and Sean Taylor, Planning Director.

- 1) Stephanie Farrell, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order. The Committee then unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting, together with the minutes of the prior meeting of the Committee on February 21, 2024.
- 2) The Committee discussed 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 discussion focused on the steps to be taken before the Committee recommends these grants to the Town Council.
- 3) The Committee determined that Stephanie will make a presentation to Council on April 4, 2024, explaining the CORE grant program in general terms. Stephanie generously agreed to circulate to the Committee, by March 27, 2024, a draft of this presentation.
- 4) The Committee determined that it will take final action and make final recommendations concerning the Blaylock and Nydorf/Hammond applications in time to present them to Council at Council's May, 2024, meeting.
- 5) The Committee discussed the documents that the Committee will need to obtain or prepare in support of its final recommendations to Council, including (a) memoranda evaluating these two grant applications according to the substantive criteria governing the CORE program; (b) draft memoranda of understanding between the Town of Oak Ridge and the prospective grantees of the proposed easements (the Piedmont Land Conservancy and Preservation North Carolina); (c) surveys of the respective properties; (d) estimates of the expenses that will be involved in the creation of the proposed easements; and (e) draft grant letters to the grant applicants. Ann generously agreed to prepare appropriate grant letters, and Sean agreed to work up an expense estimate for the Blaylock property.
- 6) The Committee briefly discussed the Old Mill and the Alma Blaylock property (8250 E. Harrell Road), both of which have previously been discussed by the Committee. Ann reported that the Piedmont Land Conservancy has received a state grant that will facilitate the purchase of the Alma Blaylock property. The Committee received this report as very good news indeed.
- 7) The Committee determined that its next meeting will be held on April 17, 2024, in the conference room of the Town Hall.

The meeting was then Adjourned.