

Minutes of the Conservation Easements Committee, April 17, 2024

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, April 17, 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, Town Senior Clerk

- 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 March 20, 2024.
- Committee members were provided a copy of the slides used by Chair Farrell and Vice Chair Simpson at the April 4, 2024 Town Council meeting to brief members of Council on the history and functions of the Conservation Easements Committee. The briefing included mention of the two pending applications which would likely be the first such submissions to Town Council by the Committee.
- 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 Committee agreed on the steps to be taken to bring the two grant applications to Council for approval at its May 7, 2024, meeting. Also discussed was the need for a draft notification letter to approved applicants.
- The Committee members were advised 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 contact Preservation North Carolina (PNC) and the owners in the hope that an agreement can be reached before the sale.
- The Committee was advised that the Alma Blaylock property (8250 E. Harrell Rd.) is progressing to a favorable resolution. Piedmont Land Conservancy has been working with the property owners to obtain the approved financial grant funding to facilitate the conservation easement process.
- The Committee briefly discussed other prospective conservation and preservation candidate properties.
- The Committee determined that its next meeting will be held on May 15, 2024, at 1:00 in the conference room of the Town Hall.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Ron Simpson, Acting Secretary