

**Town of Drakes Branch
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Jan 25, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.
Municipal Building, Drakes Branch, VA**

Members Present: Ronnie Card, Roscoe Eubanks, Jr., Deborah Kennedy, Dorothea Knott, Janice Wells, and Jerris Wells.

Member Absent: Fred Black

Eugene Wells, Zoning Administrator was present.

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kennedy - 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

Minutes were read by secretary, Dorothea Knott. Jerris Wells motioned to accept the minutes with the addition of the adjournment time. The motion was seconded by Janice Wells and passed by the Planning Commission.

Chairperson Kennedy reported that the town will not pursue securing a utility warranty for water and sewer due to the increase in billing complications.

Zoning Permit - None at this time.

New Business

The Town of Drakes Branch is not included in the Enterprise Zone for Charlotte County. Listed below are some incentives for businesses:

- 1) Sight Purchase Discount
- 2) Real Estate Investment Grant
- 3) Temporary Office Space at SVCC
- 4) Technology Assistance

Zoning Administrator, Eugene Wells raised the issue of properties within the town limit not adhering to the Zoning Ordinance regarding property maintenance. Discussion concluded with the Commission requesting the Town Council to research property maintenance and its enforcement. The importance of property maintenance is directly tied to attracting businesses to the town.

The Planning Commission will invite the newly elected Mayor, Phil Jackson, to the March meeting to discuss his vision for the town. Commission members were asked to bring written questions for the Mayor to the February meeting.

Commission members expressed their concern for the blight of the town especially after FEMA destroys buildings within the Flood Zone.

Chairperson Kennedy requested everyone to bring ideas for improving the town's business opportunities and green spaces.

Motion was made by Jerris Wells and seconded by Janice Wells to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorotha Kennedy, Chairman, for Dorotha

Dorothea Knott, Secretary