

# Drakes Branch Planning Commission

## Drakes Branch Municipal Building

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

**Members Present:** Phillip Flippen, Deborah Kennedy, Dorothea Knott, Janice Wells, Roscoe Eubanks, and Jerris Wells

**Members Absent:** Fred Black

Mr. Eugene Wells, Zoning Administrator, and Mr. Phil Jackson, Drakes Branch Mayor was also in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at by Chairperson Deborah Kennedy at 7:05 P.M.

#### **Old Business:**

Committee members reviewed minutes from the July meeting. Dorothea Knott motioned to approve the minutes and Roscoe Eubanks seconded the motion. The motion was carried and approved by the Planning Commission.

#### **Zoning Permit:**

No Zoning Permit request received.

Roscoe Eubanks reported that he finalized the copy of the Drakes Branch VA Emergency Contact list which will be included in the town's welcome packet for new residents. Committee members thanked him for his work on this important project.

#### **New Business:**

Mayor Phil Jackson reported the following:

- The town has filled the Clerk's position. However, there is currently opening in the public works department.
- Fees are charged to residents who do not cut their grass.
- Due to the amount of debris in Twitter's Creek, the Mayor has requested that it be widened to eliminate this problem.
- The Mayor has been exploring benefits if the town allowed the land around the Drakes Branch Lake be used for Solar Panels. He stated that this would be a future project of approximately 3 to 5 years. If this project is pursued, then there would be unrestrictive access to the area that will be used for recreational purposes. This would include walking trails, picnic tables, fishing, and boating activities.

All hazardous material will be removed by the company, and they would be financially liable for the decommission process. The town will be able to cut and sell the timber.

Roscoe Eubanks posed the following questions:

How long would it be before the land can be used after solar panels are removed?

What is involved in the decommission process and how long will it take?

The Mayor is still researching this process and will keep the Planning Commission abreast of new developments.

- The Mayor reported that Building Inspector, John Hess, will not condemn buildings in town that are structurally safe.

Jerris Wells asked the Mayor how could the town repair sidewalks. The Mayor reported that this has been an ongoing issue and has been reported to VDOT. He explained that there is population density requirement which, unfortunately, the town does not meet.

There was discussion regarding the Planning Commission returning to quarterly meetings. Roscoe suggested that we not decide until we had full attendance. Jerris Wells motioned to place this item on the agenda for the September meeting. Janice Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Kennedy asked everyone to think of ideas that would help the town to promote the area State Forest.

Phillip Flippen motioned to adjourn the meeting and Janice Wells seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorothea G. Knott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dorothea G. Knott,  
Secretary