

Drakes Branch Planning Commission

Drakes Branch Municipal Building

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 26, 2024 7:00 PM

Members Present: Fred Black, Phillip Flippen, Deborah Kennedy, Dorothea Knott, and Roscoe Eubanks, Jr.

Members Absent: Janice Wells and Jerris Wells

The Zoning Administrator, Eugene Wells, was not present.

Guest:

Mr. Phil Jackson, Drakes Branch Mayor

Mr. James Gregory, Economic Development

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deborah Kennedy at 7:02 P.M.

Old Business

Committee members reviewed minutes from the August meeting. Phillip Flippen motioned to approve the minutes and Fred Black seconded the motion. The motion was carried and approved by the Planning Commission.

Zoning Permit:

Robert Kemery

5869 Main Street Request for a 28 x 12 Pre-Fab Shed

Request – Approved

Committee Members revisited discussion on meeting quarterly. Members agreed that they preferred meeting monthly. Motion was made by Roscoe Eubanks, Jr. to continue meeting monthly and motion was seconded by Phillip Flippen. Motion carried.

Roscoe Eubanks, Jr. asked Mayor Jackson to clarify some of the information that he presented last meeting regarding the Solar Panel project. Mayor Jackson stated that it would be 3-5 years before this project would begin. The payment is an agreement for the town to hold the land and this has been cleared by the lawyer.

Mayor Jackson reiterated that there will be a 500 feet barrier. Money will be used to develop the area for recreational use.

New Business

Committee members discussed holding meetings during November and December. Due to the holidays, members decided to reconvene in January 2025. Roscoe Eubanks, Jr. Motioned not to meet during November and December. Dorothea Knott second the motion. Motion was carried.

Mayor Jackson would like to start a Business Association that would explore ideas for revitalization. He mentioned the town of Pamplin has had success with exciting community members to improve their buildings.

Fred Black suggested providing a RV Dump Station.

Another suggestion was a Splash Pad like the one in Farmville.

Major Jackson mentioned to committee members the Veterans Day Parade that will be held on November 9th. Additional activities will include craft and food vendors, as well as a music band. He asked for help with this event.

James Gregory discussed his success using social media with his event that was held prior to COVID. He stated that it was mainly advertised on social media and word of mouth.

Roscoe suggested for an activity – Chili Cook Off

Phillip Flippen suggested a Bounce House for children – Approximate cost \$325

Mayor Jackson reported that the CRC has a Registry for the Department of Housing which allows people to locate property that is for rent. He will be working to include anyone that would like their property listed. Please spread the word as this could be beneficial for the town.

Phillip Flippen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Roscoe Eubanks, Jr. Seconded and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothea G. Knott, Secretary