



Planning Commission

Public Hearing

March 6, 2007

7:00p.m.

At approximately 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Chairman Tom Bonadeo called to order the Public Hearing of the Planning Commission. In addition to Chairman Bonadeo, present were, Bruce Evans, Eileen Cobb, Karen Davis, Cela Burge and Joan Natali. Absent was Ken Kuttler. Also present were Town Planner Jason Pruitt and two members of the public.

Public Comments

Steve Bennett – 100 Creekside Lane

Mr. Bennett preceded his dialogue by indicating he was making a point of clarification on the Tree Ordinance. He stated his understanding was that the proposed Tree Conservation and Preservation Ordinance was an amendment to the Cape Charles Zoning Ordinances, only, and did not apply to the Accawmacke Plantation Unit Development known as Bay Creek. He mentioned that Bay Creek had design guidelines published for each of its villages and that those guidelines contained extensive requirements regarding trees and landscaping. He indicated the guidelines were very explicit in all areas, i.e. what trees can be cut, what to use as replacements, street tree requirements, etc. and that intensive landscaping was required along with a landscaping plan review to be certain the number, size and types of plantings were compatible with each specific village. Mr. Bennett remarked the design guidelines were incorporated into the Declaration of Covenants Conditions and Restrictions which assured the ability to enforce the requirements. He firmly expressed the guidelines in place at Bay Creek Community addressed the intent of the Tree Ordinance and that if it was the Commission's intent that the Ordinance apply to Bay Creek, it be reconsidered.

Melvin Dudley – 303 Madison Ave.

Mr. Dudley thanked the tree committee for the care they had taken creating the tree inventory which he had been using extensively. He then remarked that it was too soon to establish a Tree Ordinance. It was his contention that all trees obstructing the power lines and heaving the sidewalks should be removed prior to enforcing a new ordinance.

Mr. Dudley then directed attention to the median strip running east and west on Monroe Ave. He stated emergency vehicles could travel that area only under their own peril. Mr. Dudley had been told that the Fire Company would avoid that street if at all possible and would fight any fires from the alleyways. The combination of on street parking and the type of trees planted in the median made it unsafe for emergency vehicles to travel that street.

Mr. Dudley further mentioned if any area was unsafe (trees, sidewalks, etc.) it should be corrected.

Chairman Bonadeo interjected a comment on the sidewalk conditions. He mentioned one of the improvements allowed by the Block Grant was for sidewalks. It was the understanding of the Chairman that funds had been requested to repair or replace the sidewalks in the target area.

Motion to adjourn made by Cela Burge, seconded by Bruce Evans and unanimously approved.

Chairman

Town Clerk