

Town of Mineral 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update
Items Recommended for Consideration of Incorporation
MPC Action – Meeting of 11/30/2023

Items are Not Prioritized:

- 1) Foster preservation and recognition of old homes and businesses on Mineral Avenue, East to West Town limits, along Louisa Avenue from the North Town limit to the Mineral Fire Department Building intersection and on the segment of First Street from the intersection of Louisa Avenue/First Street to the intersection of Mineral Avenue/First Street as the Town's Historic Downtown Centre (HDC).
- 2) Promote and enhance the Historic Downtown Centre area with replacement of existing street lights with older style historic style streetlights that could also provide for patriotic flags and designer banners. Also, pursue and evaluate the placement of electrical lines underground along the three HDC streets.
- 3) Create an Overlay District or other Town Code Provisions to Protect and Preserve the Town's Historic Downtown Centre such that - No multi-family housing, townhomes or condominiums shall be permitted within the Town along Mineral Avenue or on the portions of Louisa Avenue and First Street designated as included in the Historic Downtown Centre.
- 4) No advertising and or signs may be placed on the sides of existing buildings, or future buildings constructed in the Historic Downtown Centre, except for advertisements/signs that are related specifically to the business(s) conducted within the building(s). Separately, all murals or art drawings placed on the outside of buildings inside of the HDC must be submitted as a proposed plan to the Town Planning Commission and/or the Town Council for review and must receive Council's approval. Guidelines and restrictions shall be promptly developed and must be in existence before future murals will be approved by Council. [Advice of TJPDC on best means to manage an accomplish this item is requested].
- 5) Improve the Town of Mineral's main thoroughfares of US 522 and US 208 within the HDC to facilitate commerce, pedestrian traffic and parking. Increase the number of crosswalks and traffic calming techniques along the HDC with priority to the placement of approved crosswalks at the intersection of Mineral Avenue and First Street at the traffic light, in the general area of

the Mineral Post Office along/across Mineral Avenue and at the traffic intersection of First Street and Louisa Avenue near the Fire Hall. Additional road improvements and safety measures such as bike lanes, increased street parking, reduced speed limits in the HDC area, sidewalk improvements all across town, extensions of the sidewalk eastward from Fifth Street to the East Town limits and increased pedestrian information/warning signage within the town are encouraged and to be promoted.

6) Foster and Promote infill of Commercial Businesses, in accord with the adopted Town Zoning Ordinances, particularly along and within the Historic Downtown Centre that support and will provide services to the residents of the community, to shoppers, other businesses, to visitors and tourists in the area and to the local school system and activities. The facade/outside materials of such buildings, residences and structure should be constructed and maintained in keeping with the time period of other historic buildings in the HDC. Guidelines and samples shall be developed and made available to prospective and current businesses.

7) Promote and encourage the continuation and enhancements to the Mineral Farmers Market at the new Town owned (09/2023 gift to the Town) Whitlock Family Park at its current location and support the addition of covered areas, paths and a stage.

8) Foster the inclusion and/or addition of any other properties into the plans for the enhanced public use of the recreational, entertainment and public venue of the Town owned community park property in the area of Luck Field including the public playground lot, the LOVE Sign and the surrounding property around the ball diamond.

9) Advocate for a restriction to be placed on tractor trailer traffic through the Town of Mineral Historic Downtown Centre along Mineral Avenue, and the segments of Louisa Avenue and First Street and prohibit the parking of any tractor trailers along these streets overnight in this specific HDC area.

10) Foster the economic development of existing businesses and promote additional new businesses in the Light Commercial, General Commercial and any prospects interested in the previous PUD location, in accordance with and as permitted in the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

11) Promote continued affiliation and increased participation with the Virginia Mainstreet Program Organization. Consider the incorporation of many concepts advocated by said Organization and with the Louisa County Chamber of Commerce, including encouragement of storefront businesses to be located on the street level; long-term housing in upstairs levels; height of buildings not to exceed three total floors; and owner occupied and/or long-term rental/leases permitted (one year length or more). Short-term leases in the Town and particularly in the HDC area should be evaluated and

policies, procedures and conditions developed. [TJPDC's advice is requested on legality and options available regarding short-term rentals, as litigation is occurring, and laws are rapidly changing].

12) Promote and encourage development of a Traffic Bypass for all tractor trailers use, except to conduct business within the Town, and for pass-through traffic that elects to use it, with VDOT and the County of Louisa to facilitate safer tractor trailer, automobile and pedestrian traffic flow through the Town of Mineral Historic Downtown Centre. A Traffic Bypass would facilitate the North/South and East/West primary roads traffic and Emergency vehicles, to have an alternative route around the Town available to them in times of emergency, particularly at the Mineral railroad crossing and at the major intersection of Mineral Avenue and First Street. In addition, the construction of a Traffic Bypass around the Town would provide for continued traffic flow to occur during special events, parades and during the morning and afternoon traffic backups that occur each weekday when the Louisa County Public School System Complex takes in in the morning, closes in the afternoon and during the frequent school sporting events, theater or special activities that take place there.

13) Promote increased communications and planning to be commenced between the Town of Mineral and the Louisa County Public Schools to promulgate additional training and learning experiences for students and to provide possible future job opportunities with the Town. The Town/School System partnership should result in facilitation, recognition and advocacy for additional businesses that would serve and support the needs and activities of the School System, the teachers, the parents, students and the visitors to school activities in the area.

14) Promote the creation of a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to be developed by the Planning Commission each fiscal year and submitted to and approved by the Town Council. Public hearings shall elicit the public's participation and input into the Town's long-term capital investments and expenditures.

15) Ensure that capital improvements and maintenance is planned and budgeted for the Town's essential public water and sewer systems. Said systems shall be expected to operate in a self-sufficient manner in its operations and maintenance. Developers within the Town should be expected to participate in and/or to fund future expansions to the w/s systems.

16) Promote the Beautification of the Town of Mineral and support the Mineral Historic

Foundation, which helped the Town of Mineral to receive its historic designation status from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 2004 and is establishing a Mineral Historic Foundation Museum in the old Town of Mineral Municipal Building. The Town should proactively pursue grants for the Town's beautification, preservation, and infrastructure, while seeking the support and inclusion of local businesses and the increased use of the Town's website. Proactively encourage new Commercial and Residential development in the Town and the maintenance or expansion of existing structures in keeping with the plans for the Historic Downtown Centre and in consultation with the established Mineral Historic District properties as established and recognized by the Federal Government and State of Virginia where applicable. All properties in the Town of Mineral shall be properly managed and maintained by their respective owners to maintain property values and the public safety of surrounding property owners.

17) Address blight and neglect within the Town of Mineral. Develop a clear process for addressing blight within the Town. Examine and update relevant Town Codes to address blight and neglect. Seek funding and grants to assist in efforts to correct problems through rehabilitation, removal or historical appropriate replacement. Invite the participation of the Town Beautification Committee and other groups (such as the school's trade school program) to help address problem blight or neglected properties or situations.

18) Make the Town of Mineral "Welcoming" to seniors, families and to kids as possible. Seek to make the Town more senior and kid friendly so as to make it a destination for people of all ages and families to set up a home. Identify and consider any and all play and recreation resources within the Town, information which would be helpful in planning for current and future improvements. Evaluate Town owned properties, buildings and facilities in and around Luck Field to identify and catalog all of the current uses and to consider opportunities for increased usage by Town residents and the public in the future.

19) Promote the continuation of the professional and responsive services provided by the Town of Mineral's DMV office, and to provide Town resources to support and enhance the provision of vital DMV services to the public, to titling companies and other businesses dependent on personal office assistance.

20) Consider and develop guidelines, instructions, procedures, and routes for the conduct of public parades that are safe, civic and community minded in the Town of Mineral.

21) Work with TJPDC, Louisa County and any/all other resources necessary to determine why and how to fix the long documented and thus far unsuccessfully corrected GPS street address numbering errors that exist in the Town of Mineral. These directional and specific locational errors lead to mis-deliveries and sometimes the loss of packages and mail, difficulty in service providers locating homes or businesses for fuel delivery, service repairs, etc. and the potential for mistaken delays for emergency service medical or police response to sites in Town during personal or public crisis or distress.

22) Accomplish an overdue Mineral Town Charter review/comparison to the Mineral Town Code and prepare a Charter Update Request to submit to the Virginia General Assembly for its required consideration and approval.

23) Promote and encourage Broadband/High Speed Internet access and availability to be made available to ALL residents and businesses within the Town limits.

24) Investigate funding for the acquisition (gift or purchase) and preservation of the Historic Train Depot in Town to be used by the Town as a Welcome Center, Information Booth and the starting point for Town walking/riding tours.

25) Preserve the Old Jail and investigate funding to remove attached construction and the remodeling and restoration of the Old Town Jail to become a historic site and location to visit on the Town's walking/riding tours.

26) Investigate and confirm the Title and seek funding for a comprehensive study with recommendations regarding the Old Town Cemetery located off Second Street. Clear and restore the sanctity of the resting place of many former Town residents. Seek to determine and mark the cemetery boundaries, locate and mark all graves, including the likely existence of unmarked graves, provide an identification marker or signage of the cemetery on-site and develop a public walking/riding entrance from a public road into the cemetery.

27) Eliminate references to the Town expanding Walton Park in the current Comprehensive Plan. Note that Walton Park is located within the Town limits and is owned and operated by the Mineral Volunteer Fire Department.

28) Update all statistics, charts, pictures, or diagrams in the current CP.

29) Update or revise other details in the existing CP such as past and present Town budgets,

Town population projections, Town growth areas and the history of the Town which should now be over 120 years, versus approximately 100 years old, as stated currently in the plan.

The above list of items was reviewed and discussed at several recent Mineral Planning Commission meetings. The MPC unanimously voted to approve, at its monthly meeting on November 30, 2023, this list of recommended items to be submitted to the TJPDC for its consideration to be incorporated into the development of revisions and additions to the proposed 2024 Town of Mineral Comprehensive Plan Update.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Kube, Chairman
Mineral Planning Commission