



Joann M. McDermon, Mayor
Mike Benson, Mayor Pro Tem

Alice Derian, ICMA-CM
Town Manager

Aldermen:
Fred Fontana
Richard Grant
Tom Leonard
Connie Pletl

Nancy Avery
Interim Town Clerk

Agenda	Consent
Item:	Agenda
Date:	12 06 2023

Planning Board Committee Report
Hanna McCloud, Chair

The Planning Board held a meeting on November 9, 2023.

Mrs. McCloud made the following announcements:

November is American Indian Heritage Month. The tribal community of North Carolina is the foundation of the rich history of our state.

North Topsail Beach is home to about 125 service members and veterans. This Saturday, November 11th, we honor all men and women who have served and sacrificed to preserve our freedoms and continue to make a positive impact in their communities.

Wednesday, November 15th at 6 pm, is the 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, with Santa, hot cocoa & cookies served by Girl Scout Troop #361, the Sneads Ferry Presbyterian Choirs, face painting and the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alderman Grant addressed the Planning Board. He said he wanted to make sure there was a discussion. He had read through the stuff in the planning board packet. When he had a discussion with your chairman, it was about organizational issues. That's the only reason that he wanted to pull all the stuff off the other agenda. Because he thought after talking to the chairman that we needed to sit down together - both Planning Board and the Board of Aldermen - work through all the stuff that we've got and see what the right way to proceed was and so we're moving forward with that and that he believes what's going to happen from talking to Alice is that the the town attorney will be there too to kind of work with all of us so he thinks that's a good way to go forward on it. But just a clarification because he saw on there he really didn't have anything on there the other thing too and that he actually mentioned to the chairman when he came in somebody posted on Facebook that he was in favor of a three-person Planning Board and that is

not what he said. He said that what he said was the statute says three people. He stated that he was not in favor of a three-person planning board. He said that he thought that would be a mistake but he is only one person. He stated that he did not know how that got out there and that it is one of those things that keeps getting posted. He stated that he wanted to assure the Planning Board and that he was looking at the Planning Board Bylaws and it says that the mayor may appoint one member of the Board of Aldermen as a liaison member to the Planning Board and that it was not going to be him. He stated that when he talked to the Chairman, they were talking about the need to get the organizational issues resolved, figure all that kind of stuff out, so we can move together forward.

USE STANDARDS FOR OCEAN HAZARD AREAS EXCEPTIONS

The Planning Director reported that on November 1, Alderman Grant made a motion to remove from the agenda, under IX. Continued Business: D. Planning Board membership (Alderman Grant) and E. Discussion and possible action regarding UDO Article 2, "et seq"(Attorney Edes). He stated that he had a number of discussions with the Planning Board Chair and some of the members had a suggestion, which Alderman Grant supports that the Board of Aldermen and Planning Board have a meeting rather than going back and forth.

BYLAWS, RULES OF PROCEDURE AND COMPOSITION

The Planning Director presented the following:

Planning Board Duties and Responsibilities

Bylaws (2002)

Rules of Procedure (revised and readopted September 9, 2022).

Composition (referencing Ordinances dated 3-5-1992; 6-6-2002

Comparison to Other Local Planning Boards

The Planning Director made the following recommendation. Recognizing that the Board of Aldermen have the unquestionable and legal prerogative to amend the Planning Board Bylaws, Rules of Procedure and Unified Development Ordinance §2.02.02 (A) and (B), these documents have served to foster two well-organized and functioning boards. On this basis, that the Planning Board recommends to the Board of Aldermen, that no changes be made, as:

1. A 7-member, 2-alternate composition allows for the routine absence of some members, while still having the ability to have a quorum and carry out its duties and responsibilities, without delay;
2. 7 members and 2 alternates provide a diverse sampling of the overall concerns and priorities of the citizens of North Topsail Beach, while still allowing for civil dialogue to form a consensus and provide sound and reasonable recommendations to the Board of Aldermen;
3. 7 members and 2 alternates provide greater opportunity for interested citizens to serve the Town;
4. 7 members and 2 alternates provide for alternates to become regular members, after having gained training and experience by actively participating in the execution of the duties and responsibilities of the Planning Board

The consensus of the Planning Board is to recommend the aforementioned to the Board of Aldermen.