

OXFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes – July 8, 2014

MEMBERS: Mike Ready, Chair; Shawn Gaither, Secretary, Penny England, Vivian Harris, and Ron Manson. Jonathan Eady was absent.

STAFF: Bob Schwartz, city manager and zoning administrator.

GUESTS: Marguerite Abd El-Shahid, Jen Fabrick, and Kendra Mayfield with Oxford College and Emory University. Also Tyson Curcio with EYP Architecture and Engineering of Boston, MA joined on the speaker phone.

OPENING: Mr. Ready called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Manson, seconded by Ms. England, the minutes for the meeting of June 3, 2014 were approved.

Oxford College (Development Application for Science Building) – Oxford College had submitted an Application for Development Permit Approval for a 57,720 square foot Science Building. Marguerite Abd El-Shahid introduced the representatives from Oxford College and Emory University, along with Mr. Tyson Curcio with EYP Architecture and Engineering of Boston. Mr. Curcio joined the meeting on the speakerphone. Ms. Abd El-Shahid stated that the Emory representatives were glad to be at the meeting and to be able to discuss the building. They had verified the requirements of the fire marshal. The submitted plans were the permit set and were essentially the same as the draft plan submitted for the pre-application meeting last month. More of the details had been filled in. In general the offices were in the front of the building with the labs and classrooms in the back. There is a greenhouse on the side. There had been no major changes since the last meeting.

Mr. Manson asked what was in the penthouse portion of the building. Ms. Abd El-Shahid stated that it was all mechanicals. She also noted that she had submitted the hydrology report to the city. Mr. Schwartz reported that the hydrology report had been reviewed by Jim Patrick who found it in compliance. Mr. Schwartz asked whether or not Mr. Curcio was going to be present during construction. He stated that he was planning to make several visits, but that his firm had a local architect who would be on the scene almost daily.

Upon motion of Mr. Manson, seconded by Ms. Gaither, the development permit for the new science building for Oxford College was approved. All members voted in favor.

Ms. Fabrick thanked the Planning Commission for its work and asked that if any member had any questions during construction to please give her a call.

(There was a short recess while Mr. Ready and Mr. Schwartz loaded the building permit set of plans into Ms. Mayfield's car.)

Comments: Mr. Ready noted that, in his opinion, the Planning Commission had done more work in the last six months than in the previous twelve months. Mr. Manson noted that this was true as far as residents, but that earlier, the commission had developed the existing zoning ordinance. Ms. Harris commented that they really had done more work in the last six months than in the last five years, except for the zoning ordinance.

2050 Plan: Mr. Ready and Mr. Schwartz commented on version 1 of the 2050 plan zoning ordinance. The 1st draft had been prepared. When the 3rd draft was received. Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Ready would prepare a marked up copy to be submitted to the Planning Commission. They intend to show the new zoning ordinance with all the portions of the existing Oxford city code inserted at the proper points. This will take a lot of time and work, but is necessary to develop a unified zoning ordinance for all of Newton County.

Master Plan: Mr. Ready reported that City Council was still working on a master plan and it was not clear whether or not a committee as such would be necessary. He would keep the Planning Commission informed as this project moved forward.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Ready adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.

Submitted by:

Shawn Gaither, Secretary