

APPROVED

Oxford Planning Commission
Minutes for Meeting on November 13, 2012

Attendance: Patsy Burke, Jackie Ellis, Vivian Harris, Erik Oliver, Ron Manson, Jim Patrick

Chairman Erik Oliver opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Old Business:

1. The September 11, 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
2. There was no Planning Commission meeting in October for lack of agenda items.
3. Chairman Oliver reported that the City Council has postponed discussion of Oxford College's request to rezone the former Elizer property to Agricultural. The mayor had prepared a resolution of approval before the council committee on planning had a chance to review it and develop its motion. Councilman Eady, planning committee chair, said he would not put forth a resolution to approve rezoning the Elizer property to Agricultural, prompting the mayor to table the discussion. The mayor said he had discussed the request with Dean Bowen and a Northeast Georgia Regional Commission representative and personally believes Institutional zoning is appropriate, despite the Planning Commission's previous determination that a farm, the College's sole proposed use, is not currently allowed in Institutional districts.
4. Oxford College has not removed signs it erected on public land without approval and that are not permissible under current code. The mayor, after discussing it with Dean Bowen, instructed City Manager Clark Miller to take no action before the new city manager arrives.

New Business:

1. It was noted for information that Curtis Jackson had asked for a variance from the Newton County Board of Zoning Appeals for his property at 435 Richardson Road. The city has no jurisdiction on this property as it is an unincorporated island.
2. The Planning Commission discussed timber harvesting prompted by an inquiry from the owners of the John Gregory property on Oxford Road. Timber harvesting is allowed in the city, but it was unclear whether there are any restrictions or requirements in the city ordinances on how it could be done. The Commission agreed to ask the owners to consider selective cutting only, or to approach the College or City about buying and preserving the property as a buffer zone.
3. Chairman Oliver and Jackie Ellis will not seek reappointment after their terms expire this year. Names of possible candidates for the council to consider were discussed, and names will be shared with the Council at its next work session.

Chairman Oliver adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Patrick, Secretary