



AGENDA

Ruckersville Advisory Committee

Tasked with a mission of tracking progress on recommendations of the Plan and following up with responsible parties

October 10, 2019

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Four Seasons Clubhouse

1. News/reports/updates [15 minutes]

a. From Planners

b. From Economic Development & Tourism: Any updates regarding Greene County signs? Progress report on the Visitors' Center?

c. From Bonnie: Report on phone chat with Tim Clemons, general manager of the Rapidan Service Authority on whether the water treatment plant on Rt. 29 just north of Ruckersville can somehow be made more visually attractive.

2. Discussion and possible approval of year-end memo from RAC to BOS [20 minutes]

3. Further consideration of Big Picture Vision for Ruckersville, with a visual presentation by Jim Frydl on the hoped-for network of parallel and connector roads. [15 minutes]

4. Wrap-up [10 minutes]

a. Nominations for the next chair

b. Determination of focus for next RAC meeting.

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

To: The Greene County Board of Supervisors

From: The Ruckersville Advisory Committee

Re: Recommendations from 2019 Deliberations

Date:

This memo pertains to the Ruckersville Area Plan, which called on June 12, 2018, for the creation of a citizen-led advisory group now called the Ruckersville Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC has been tasked with a mission of tracking the progress on the recommendations found in the plan.

RAC chose to focus on items that were labeled “immediate priority” in the Area Plan, with the following results.:

- **Comprehensive Zoning Audit:** In order to facilitate the implementation of the county’s 10-year plan, RAC recommended that the BOS add a line item in the FY20 budget for a full zoning audit. This line item was approved and steps have been taken to award a contract for such an audit by December 2019.
- **Marketing and Branding for Recreation Opportunities:** Consideration of this matter has been lodged with another stakeholder group representing the entire county, which has developed a Strategic Plan.
- **Community Events:** RAC heard a report on current events by ED&T; RAC was unable to identify other viable event opportunities, such as an antique-focused weekend, that have not already been considered or tried.
- **Citizens Academy:** A member of RAC discussed this matter with the BOS chair, who recommended that consideration of this item be postponed to 2020 when the new County Administrator would be fully oriented to the county and have time to participate in the deliberations.
- **Streetscape and Beautification Plan:** Recommendations provided below.

In the last several months, RAC has focused much of its attention upon Recommendation C-4, “Streetscape and Beautification Plan,” in the Ruckersville Area Plan. The initial objective was to “develop a plan to beautify the US 29 corridor in the Ruckersville area, with improved landscaping, new curbs, and gutters, consolidation of excessive road signs and consideration of design guidelines.”

RAC showed particular interest in offering recommendations aimed at making Ruckersville an attractive destination for both residents and visitors. To achieve

this, RAC recognized that Ruckersville would need a clearer identity, both visually and functionally.

To date, RAC has arrived at the following recommendations for the Board of Supervisors to consider mandating the county's Planning staff to initiate:

1. On signage

- a. To reduce clutter on US Route 29, perform a sign audit on signs within VDOT's right of way, including VDOT directional and no parking signs, with the goal of requesting that unnecessary or excessive signage be removed.
- b. Develop a visually coordinated signage program for indicating routes to business, cultural, historical and other places of significant interest.
- c. Review enforcement codes regarding temporary signage.
- d. The positioning of Welcome to Greene signs on Rt. 29 should be reviewed to ensure the best possible placement, with the possible addition of departure wording for the back of signs, such as "Leaving beautiful Greene County."
- e. The attractive Ruckersville sign at the juncture of Rts. 29 and 33 at the Exxon station should be maintained, with similar Ruckersville identification signs considered for other appropriate locations.

2. On upkeep

- a. More frequent mowing of the median to be done, with VDOT's current schedule of mowing four times annually to be supplemented by mowing performed by private contractors, as is done in Albemarle and Charlottesville.
- b. Poll local businesses to determine whether they would be comfortable with a newly developed property maintenance code aimed at ensuring a uniformly well-maintained look to properties fronting on Rt. 29.

3. On zoning and future development

- a. Ensure the approved zoning audit includes regulation plans, public standards, and building standards that support the community vision for Rt. 29 for future development and redevelopment.
- b. Work with VDOT to secure funding through the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program Funds (TA) or Smart Scale to develop an application for a streetscape plan for Rt. 29, including the proposed connecting or parallel

road network immediately adjacent to 29, with provisions for safe passage for pedestrians and bicycle riders.

- c. Work with utility companies to reduce the visual clutter of power lines when development occurs adjacent to Rt. 29.

In addition to the information provided above, the planning staff has updated the committee that the Recommendation “Housing Partnerships: C-6” has also been initiated with the assistance of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission through a Comprehensive Regional Housing Study and Needs Assessment. County-specific data was shared through a stakeholder meeting on August 29, 2019 and again at a public community engagement meeting on September 17, 2019. A regional and county-specific plan, with goals and recommendations, will be provided to the community February 2020.

The RAC anticipates continuing in the coming year to work toward realizing the Plan’s vision statement by addressing more of its recommendations.

Ruckersville Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

9/12/2019

Attending:

Larry Miller, Mike Hammer, Andrea Wilkinson, Diane Wilson, Jim Frydl, Stephanie Golon, Gretchen Scheuermann, Jay Willer, L.J. Lopez, Bonnie Lofton, John Silke

1. News/reports/Updates

- Zoning Audit
 - o Has been released for bid.
 - o Will have broad visibility in various publications.
 - o Expecting responses back within a week.
- Request for VDOT for removal of signs.
 - o Formal request has not yet been initiated.
 - o Need to request Planning staff to take to B.O.S.
- Kinvara Dedicated parcel.
 - o 1.75 acres to be dedicated as part of proffer.
 - o Will help provide greater connectivity.
 - o Stub out to right should be completed within year.

2. Discussion

- Concept of interconnectivity was discussed. It was noted that a parallel road network (roads parallel to 29) might provide the best option for connecting businesses along the 29 corridor and also provide the infrastructure for greater pedestrian access in the form of sidewalks and bike paths.
- Committee should devote more time to development of a more formal recommendation for connector roads.
- The possibility of landscaping at the current Rapidan Service Authority site was discussed. Since this is one possible site for placement of welcome sign it was felt that the site could use some enhancements to make it more visually appealing. RSA owns the property, so any beautification concepts will need to be presented to the RSA board.
- Planning staff presented a draft memorandum for RAC to submit to the BOS regarding RAC's recommendations for C-4 (Streetscape and Beautification Plan) in the Ruckersville Area Plan. Committee members felt that they needed time to carefully read and consider the draft memo and thus deferred a decision on approving it to a later meeting. Prior to RAC's Oct. 10 meeting, suggestions for edits to the memo should be sent to Stephanie.
- Bonnie pointed out that she will have served as chair for a year as of November and said that nominations for a replacement chair should be made in the October meeting to prepare for a chair change in November.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday October 10, 7:00 pm. Location to be determined (there may be a need of audio)
- Nomination of next committee chair.
- Discussion and possible approval of a RAC memorandum on Recommendation C-4 to be submitted to the BOS.
- Further consideration of Big Picture Vision for Ruckersville, with a visual presentation on the hoped-for network of parallel and connector roads.

Prepared by Mike Hammer