

Planning Department Projects and Tasks

May 2015

Community Development Block Grant

All certifications and reports are up to date and submitted. Mountain Projects is administering day to day activities and moving forward with improvements to the homes selected for assistance. The Selection Committee may have to meet to select additional recipients, as it appears that some of those previously selected will drop out. I have let Cheryl Wilkins at Mountain Projects know that Nicole Livesey will be the county contact for the program.

Cullowhee Development Standards and Zoning Map

The draft standards and map have been reviewed and final edits made. These have been forwarded to the Clerk and are ready for review and action by the Board of Commissioners.

Cellular Telecommunications Tower Ordinance

The draft cell tower ordinance has been approved by the Planning Board and forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for review and action.

Cashiers Cell Tower Proposal

An application for a new cell tower in Cashiers is anticipated within the next week. John is aware the application is pending and can do the initial log-in and assure all information is provided. A consultant likely will have to be retained to review the application and manage the review and approval process.

Cell Tower Upgrade Requests

Several cell tower upgrade project applications are anticipated in the next few weeks. John and Nicole will be able to log these, review them, and approve complete applications.

Drexel – Cherokee Preservation Foundation Grant

The county has been awarded a \$9,000 grant by the Cherokee Preservation Fund to develop a preservation plan for the archeological sites on the Drexel property and to place interpretive signs on the sites. A proposal has been submitted by Altamont Engineering to prepare the preservation plan for a cost of \$6,750, leaving over \$2,000 for the interpretive signs. No action has been taken to accept the grant. The match for the grant is the building assessment currently underway. Rich Price has a copy of the Altamont proposal; Nicole has information regarding the grant. A decision will need to be made soon regarding acceptance of the grant.

Tuckasegee River Greenway Bridge

A request for bids has been issued for the project by the project engineer. John can assist with project management. Jennifer Bennett will handle invoices and general inquiries.

Mark Watson Park Trail

A \$20,000 grant was awarded the county by Duke Energy for work to enhance the wetland area of the park. A trail has been designed and construction by county crews is scheduled to begin late this month. John and Jennifer Bennett are providing project management and coordination.

Industrial Development Ordinance Revision

Revision of the Industrial Development Ordinance by the Planning Board is continuing, with Ben Farmer (Planning Department intern) researching issues and providing information for review and discussion by the Planning Board. John and Nicole will provide guidance until a new Planning Director is hired.

Mountain and Hillside Development Ordinance Revisions

The Planning Board has directed that amendments establishing a new, objective standard for calculating slope, establishing new density standards, and clarifying what is and what is not a lot of record be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for review. These amendments will be forwarded to the Clerk within the next week. The Planning Board is continuing to review the ordinance to identify amendments to clarify it and assure that the ordinance language meets the intent and purpose as stated in the ordinance.

Planning Board

Nicole and John, with direction from Board chair Sarah Thompson, will provide staff assistance to the Planning Board as the Board continues the review of the Industrial Development and Mountain and Hillside Development ordinances and the review of any projects that may be submitted for review.

Cashiers Planning Council

John and Nicole will work with Council chair Rick Robson to continue the activities of the Planning Council.

441 Corridor Planning Council

A request for an ordinance amendment has been submitted for consideration by the Council. The amendment has been drafted for presentation to the Council. John and Nicole are scheduling a meeting time and will coordinate action on this issue and others that may come before the Council.

Historic Preservation Commission

A request for designation of a local historic property has been submitted and forwarded to the Commission for initial review. Action on this can wait until a new Planning Director is hired.

Three Moose Performance Bond

The RiverWalk apartments have submitted a performance bond to guarantee the landscaping required by the planning Board in their approval of the plans. Darlene has the check and the agreement, which was approved by Jay, awaits the County Manager's signature.