

# Macon County Planning Board



## MINUTES

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January, 2, 2025

**Call to Order:** The January, 2, 2025 meeting of the Macon County Planning Board was called to order by Jean Owen at the A/B room of the Macon County Health Dept., at 5 p.m.

**Members:** Lee Walters, Marty Kimsey, Jean Owen, Ben Ledford, Michael Mathis, Mark Berry, Luke Jakushev.

**Staff:** Caleb Gibson

**Media:** Thomas Shearl, Amy Kirkpatrick, Bobby Coggins

**Public:** Multiple

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:** Chairman Owen asked the Planning Board members to amend and approve the Agenda for the October 3, 2024 meeting. Michael Mathis made the motion to approve the Agenda, motion was seconded by Lee Walters, motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Owen requested planning board review the minutes of the October 3, 2024 meeting and make a motion of approval. Michael Mathis made a motion for the approval of minutes; motion was seconded by Marty Kimsey and motion passed unanimously.

**Elections:** Elections were held for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Michael Mathis made a motion to nominate Jean Owen as Chairman that was seconded by Marty Kimsey. After a vote it was unanimous in favor. Michael Mathis made a motion to elect Lee Walters as Vice Chairman and Ben Ledford seconded it. After a vote it was unanimous in favor.

**Liaison Report:** Commissioner Young was not present but Chairman Owen took the time to address the board about FEMA and NC still updating flood maps and what impact that might have on if we voted to allow these changes to take place.

**Public Comment:** There were 8 people signed up spoke their opinion about the floodplain ordinance changes.

**Media Comment:** None

**Presentations:** None

**Old Business:** Floodplain ordinance. Michael Mathis spoke to the board and thanked them for their dedicated service and spoke to the advisory committee for their hard work putting the presentations together. He then made a motion that in accordance with the water quality advisory committees report, comments made to him by Terry Fox with the NC Emergency Management stating changes coming to the state model ordinance, and FEMA's continued evaluation and changes in their floodplain maps. I make a motion that we deny the proposed changes to the Macon County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance allowing fill dirt, however the ordinance needs to be updated with the proper form numbers and technical errors to match the state model ordinance. This motion was seconded by Lee Walters. Marty Kimsey brought up a point of order that the Macon County Commissioners never voted to send this back to the County Planning Board and we shouldn't be discussing this right now. After several discussions with board members he withdrew the point of order. At that time Chairman Owen asked Michael to restate his motion. It was again seconded by Lee Walters and then put to a vote. The vote was 5-2 in favor of this motion.

**New Business:** Lake Emory Dam. After the board had discussions on the proposed demolition of Lake Emory Dam, they all had concerns about how difficult it would be to do this without paying for an extensive research study. They felt the county commissioners would be better tasked with this as they would be able to pay for extensive research on this topic. Michael Mathis made a motion to send this back to the County Commissioners and get a report done by them. Lee Walters seconded it and a vote was unanimous in favor.

**Announcements:** None

**Member Comments:** None

**Planning Board Recommendations:** In a vote, the planning board voted 5-2 in favor of not changing the floodplain ordinance to allow fill dirt, however the ordinance needs to be updated with the proper form numbers and technical errors to match the state model ordinance to make it enforceable.

**Next Meeting Date:** February 6, 2024.

**Meeting Adjourned:** The Macon County Planning Board meeting was adjourned with Michael Mathis making the motion and Ben Ledford seconding the motion.