

The first meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders Committee was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Community Center at Oconee Veterans Park.

<i>Members Present:</i>	Charles Baugh	Bob Bishop	Laura Carmichael
	Maria Caudill	Kent Chapman	Lisa Douglas
	David Jackson	Sherry Laboon	Charles Hunt
	Tommy Malcom	Dorann Mansberger	Daniel Marks
	Becky Moore	Ed Perkins	Andy Pippin
	Tom Porter	Michael Ransom	Laura Iyer
	Patricia Sebring	David Wenner	Marcus Wiedower
	City of Watkinsville:	Brian Brodrick, Councilman	
	Town of Bishop:	Mindy Porterfield	
	Town of High Shoals:	Toby Bradberry, Mayor	
	Board of Education:	Dr. Philip Brown	

Members Not Present: Thomas Evans, Tammy Gilland, John Larkin

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Staff: Justin Crighton, Planner

Elected Officials: John Daniell, Chairman, Oconee County Board of Commissioners
Chuck Horton, Commissioner Post 2
Terri Glen, Mayor, City of Bogart

Oconee County Staff: Sandy Weinel, Assistant Director, Planning & Code Enforcement
Andrew Stern, Planner, Planning & Code Enforcement
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk

Media Present: Michael Prochaska, Editor, The Oconee Enterprise

The meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Justin Crighton, Planner, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission.

Overview of the Comprehensive Plan Process

Mr. Crighton explained that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires an update of the Joint Comprehensive Plan every 10 years and the last update occurred in 2008. DCA has streamlined the process from three volumes into five core elements. The Comprehensive Plan update and subsequent DCA approval allows governments to participate in state funding and grant opportunities. The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will facilitate the update, thereby reducing the cost to the County and Municipalities. Mr. Crighton explained that there are elements of the Plan that are required for all communities; elements that are required for some communities; and optional elements. Dialogue will be needed between the Committee and elected officials during the Plan process.

Mr. Crighton discussed with the group the next steps in the process as follows:

- The first required public hearing will be held.
 - Committee meetings are held to discuss the plan elements.
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- Two public forums will be held to gather citizen input.
- The second required public hearing will be held.
- Transmittal, review and adoption of the Plan by the Board of Commissioners prior to submission to DCA on or before June 30, 2018 in order to retain DCA Qualified Local Government Status.

Schedule of Future Meetings

The first public hearing is scheduled for March 14, 2017, and the next Committee meeting will be held the same date. Mr. Crighton shared with the group an outline of the meeting dates, Plan characteristics and elements to be covered, public meetings and public forums. Materials will be emailed to the group prior to each meeting.

Members of the Committee asked if citizen input will be obtained prior to the meetings and inquired about the level of detail required of the Committee. Mr. Crighton stated that the Committee will articulate a vision for Oconee County and the municipalities as a whole.

Tentative Meeting Dates were proposed:

First Public Hearing 03/14/17; Committee Meeting-Land Use 03/14/17; Committee Meeting-Transportation 04/18/17; Committee Meeting-Needs & Opportunities 05/16/17; First Public Forum 06/13/17; Committee Meeting-Goals & Policies 07/18/17; Committee Meeting-Community Work Program 08/15/17; Second Public Forum 10/17/17; Second Public Hearing 12/12/17

Future Vision Discussion

Mr. Crighton led a discussion by the group regarding present and future vision for roads/transportation needs; green space; specific elements of the Plan process; time frame of the Plan; community needs and county/city leader desires; education of the group regarding the Plan elements and the effect one element has on another; additional community areas/interest for discussion; and, future plans of the School Board.

By consensus, the group requested that all meetings be revised to allow a second organizational meeting after the first public hearing. The Committee asked to divide into subcommittees to study the Plan elements and report back to the whole committee. The Committee asked for a discussion with community leaders regarding use of the current Plan and suggested improvements. Mr. Crighton asked if a Q&A session could be held with the Committee and local officials. Chairman John Daniell stated that a Q&A session could be held.

Meeting Summary

The first public hearing will be held on March 14 to inform the community/citizens about the Joint Comprehensive Plan process. The Proposed Schedule of Meetings will be revised to allow a second organizational meeting for the Committee. An online survey will be emailed in advance of the public hearing. The public may access agendas and minutes of the meetings via the Oconee County website. Additional information requested by the Committee included:

List of SPLOST projects for the County and School Board; population projections; priorities from County Department Directors; and, State transportation priorities.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
Oconee County Board of Commissioners

Justin Crighton, Planner
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

Date

Date
