

Oxford Planning Commission  
Minutes for Meeting on July 12, 2011

Attendance: Patsy Burke, Jackie Ellis, Vivian Harris, Erik Oliver, Jim Patrick, and Hoyt Oliver (liaison)

Guest: Margaret Dugan, Oxford College, Dean Stephen Bowen, Oxford College, and Lisa Dorward, new owner of Orna Villa

Chairman Erik Oliver opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Old Business:

1. Minutes for the June 14, 2011 meeting of the Oxford Planning Commission were reviewed and unanimously approved as amended.
2. Subsequent to the June meeting, Oxford College revised their plans for changes at the college to make the campus more pedestrian friendly and to improve the safety for pedestrians and vehicular traffic on Haygood Avenue. Instead of proceeding with the previously described three-phase approach, Oxford College presented a revised and expanded Application for Pre-development Approval to the City Council on July 11, 2011, which includes all of the following work:
  - Add an entrance to the south parking lot by the tennis courts to make circulation one-way,
  - Bury utilities as shown on application drawing,
  - Move Moore Street speed table to connect the sidewalk from the tennis court to the soccer field,
  - Close the main campus entrance to vehicular traffic with bollards,
  - Make various changes of pedestrian pathways internal to campus,
  - Devise a physical address system for each building on campus,
  - Install a sidewalk on the west side of Haygood Avenue between Pierce and Hamill Streets,
  - Install crosswalks surrounding a textured/stamped pad at the intersection of Hamill Street and Haygood Avenue,
  - Remove the tennis court parking,
  - Relocate the Cliff shuttle stop from Hamill Street to the west side of Haygood near the northern part of the tennis court parking being removed and install a chain link fence on its western side,
  - Install two new on-street parking spots for service vehicles adjacent to the handicap spaces on the east side of Haygood Avenue.

It was reported that the City Council had reviewed and approved the plans for parking changes behind Seney Hall making the parking area a one-way loop connecting to W. Moore Street (first three items above). The remainder of the application was sent to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation. As requested, the College resubmitted the application on July 12, 2011, divided into three parts to better facilitate review.

New Business:

1. The Planning Commission welcomed new member Jackie Ellis who had been appointed by the City Council to replace David Eady.
2. After review of City ordinances, Councilman Hoyt Oliver reported that no specific ordinances regulate when a Planning Commission member should be removed due to

- excessive absences, but rather that is a rule previously established by the Planning Commission.
3. An Application for Pre-development Approval dated July 12, 2011 was submitted by Oxford College to establish building addresses for the campus. After a brief discussion, Chairman Oliver stated that he had had discussions with the City manager about this issue and that it is best handled by the City Manager in cooperation with Newton County officials following existing standards. The commission members agreed, and directed the application back to the City Manager.
  4. The Planning Commission reviewed the unapproved portion of the pre-development Application by Oxford College. The primary areas of discussion were the plan to move the shuttle bus stop from Hamill Street to Haygood Avenue and a proposed new service parking area at the East Village dorms along Haygood Avenue.
    - After a discussion of the issues for and against the proposed relocation of the shuttle bus stop, the Planning Commission was split three to three on the issue. The decision, therefore, will be made by the City Council without a decisive recommendation from the Planning Commission.
    - After a discussion of issues related to the service parking area proposed in the plan, the Planning Commission voted to recommend the additional service parking spaces where proposed. There was one dissenting vote.
  5. The Planning Commission reviewed the portion of the application regarding installation of a sidewalk on the west side of Haygood Avenue between Hamill and Pierce Streets. The commission recommends approval of the sidewalk subject to the inclusion of the two following items to which Dean Bowen agreed:
    - Addition of a crosswalk on the north side of the intersection of Haygood Avenue and Hamill Street.
    - The current break in the partial sidewalk on the west side of Haygood Avenue near Pierce Street should be extended to provide continuity with the Pierce Street sidewalk.
  6. A suggestion was made that the intersection of Haygood Avenue and Hamill Street should be a slight raised table as a traffic calming measure as an earlier version of the college proposal had shown. After discussion, no motion was made to make a recommendation either way.
  7. Also discussed was the possibility of adding a sidewalk on the north side of Moore Street from the Seney parking area to the intersection of Moore Street and Haygood Avenue, and an extension of the sidewalk on the west side of Haygood Avenue south to the intersection of Haygood and W. Moore Street. Pros and cons were discussed. No motion was made to make a recommendation either way.

Mr Oliver adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM

Respectively submitted by Jim Patrick, Secretary