PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Transylvania County Planning Board Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM 101 South Broad Street, Brevard Multipurpose Chambers Regular Meeting Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

- I. WELCOME
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (15-minute time limit. Speakers are limited to three minutes.)
- III. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes (March 21, 2024)
 - B. Subdivision Approval and Updates
 - C. Transportation Updates
- V. INFORMATIONAL OR DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Community Appearance Initiative Update
 - B. Comprehensive Plan Work Session: Community Engagement Schedule & Infographics
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (15-minute time limit. Speakers are limited to three minutes.)
- VII. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Jeff Adams, Director Ashley Minery, Planner Darby Terrell, Planner



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Transylvania County Planning Board
March 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Cooperative Extension Conference Room,
106 East Morgan Street

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

- I. WELCOME: Mr. Rick Lasater called the meeting to order at 6:01PM. Ms. Wendy Warwick, Mr. Mike Privette, Mr. Bramley Fisher, Mr. Herschel Johnson and Mr. Greg Cochran were present. A quorum was present. Mr. Kimsey Jackson was absent. Planning Department staff Jeff Adams, Darby Terrell, and Ashley Minery were also present. Mr. Dwayne Smith, of Transylvania Solid Waste, was present. Ms. Wendy Manner and Mr. Michael Rosenthal were also present.
- **II. PUBLIC COMMENT:** (15-minute time limit. Speakers are limited to three minutes.): There were no public comments.
- **III. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** There were no proposed agenda modifications.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes (January 18, 2024)
- B. <u>Subdivision Approval and Updates</u>
- C. Transportation Updates

Ms. Minery explained the subdivision approvals and updates for the month. The numbers were also compared to other months in 2023. Mr. Adams and Ms. Terrell provided an update on transportation ridership and possible future changes to fixed route stops. She also discussed grants, advertising, and the Brevard College Survey. There was no further discussion of the consent agenda. Mr. Fisher moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Privette seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor and the motion carried.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Community Appearance Initiative CAI#24-01: Purple Bucket Enterprises, LLC

The Planning Department received an application for CAI funding to help clean a portion of Becky Mountain Road that has been used as an illegal dumping site of trash and construction waste for years. Mr. Adams presented the staff report and suggested the

Planning Board approve the application for Ms. Manner's property. Mr. Smith, Mr. Adams, and Ms. Manner explained various points of the projects such as steep slope issues and roadbeds. Because of the property's steep grade, a temporary road would be created to access junk for removal. Boulders would then be placed at the top, in the pull off area by the road, to prevent future dumping. This plan has also been discussed with Tory Wilson, NCDOT District 1 Engineer. The dumping site is not visible from the public right-of-way (Becky Mountain Road). Because of this, the board raised concerns about the project fitting into the scope and responsibilities of the Community Appearance Initiative. The board requested the property owner seek more than one quote for grading and removal of junk expenses. They also asked the property owner to state what they would be willing to contribute to the project, whether financially, or having volunteers help pick up the junk. Ms. Manner explained that due to the slope issues and ability to reach some of the junk, volunteers would be difficult to use from the community. Mr. Lasater asked the board to table this item for one month to investigate these issues further. Mr. Privette made the motion, and Ms. Warwick seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor and the motion carried.

VI. INFORMATIONAL OR DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. <u>Comprehensive Plan Work Session, Outreach and Survey Questions & Issue Areas</u> Mr. Adams discussed the current plan's goals and objectives. He explained frequently asked questions from citizens. The board also discussed the discrepancy between voting precincts, community centers and township jurisdictions. Mr. Adams will bring data and maps to next month's meeting. The board also expressed their appreciation for stacked bar charts when displaying data. The board also expressed their desire to be able to compare Transylvania County data with surrounding counties and South Carolina.
- **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** (15-minute time limit. Speakers are limited to three minutes.) There were no public comments.
- VIII. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS: Ms. Warwick said she liked displaying data in bar charts. Mr. Fisher congratulated Mr. Cochran on his Board of Education nomination. Mr. Cochran would like more information on if past CAI stayed within the scope of the mission statement. Mr. Lasater thanked staff for their time and suggested further meetings with Transylvania County Solid Waste for the CAI.
- **IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Privette seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.



Transylvania County Community Appearance Initiative As Amended on November 27, 2023

Purpose and Goals

Transylvania County is a special place known for its scenic beauty and excellent quality of life. These features have led to steady increases in population as people move to the County to live, work and visit. Concerns about the appearance and effect of abandoned manufactured homes, junked or abandoned motor vehicles, junkyards, and junk in general have been expressed by County citizens. The concerns include possible adverse effects on adjacent property values, tourism, safety and health, and potential residential and business relocations.

Many citizens are also concerned about the protection of private property rights but are interested in finding ways to help improve the appearance of the County and to help remove accumulated but unwanted junk.

The Transylvania County Comprehensive Plan includes several goals and objectives related to this initiative: 1) Encourage the preservation of aesthetically and economically valuable views and green spaces (Goal 2, Objective 10); Promote the best use of land while protecting citizen's property rights (Goal 7); Promote Best Management Practices for Corridors (Goal 7, Objective 2);

The goals of the Transylvania County Community Appearance Initiative (CAI) are:

- Preserve and protect the natural beauty of Transylvania County
- Preserve and protect property rights
- Promote and protect the health and safety of citizens of Transylvania County.
- Promote economic development while protecting individuals and businesses from burdensome regulations.

Mission

Transylvania County will assist citizens to remove and dispose of abandoned manufactured housing, junked / abandoned motor vehicles and junk. The County will also assist owners of junkyards with vegetative screening efforts. The County will help identify areas for improvement, coordinate efforts and may provide financial assistance in some cases to aid in this effort. The County will provide information for citizens and junkyard owners about the initiative, will establish an Advisory Committee and appoint an Administrator.

Scope and Priorities

The initiative will apply to abandoned manufactured homes, junked / abandoned motor vehicles, junk and junkyards visible from state roads. Priority will be given to safety and health and to the major corridors in the County; U.S. 64, U.S.178, U.S. 276, NC 215 and NC 280, but shall include all property visible to an NCDOT state-maintained public right-of-way in Transylvania County.

Description of Roles

Advisory Committee – The Planning Board, appointed by the County Commissioners, periodically reviews applications from citizens requesting assistance and complaints from concerned citizens and prioritizes improvement efforts. The Committee also provides guidance

for the administrator and reports to the Board of Commissioners. The Committee takes input from the Administrator, the Director of Solid Waste, the Building Department Director, Health Department Director and other applicable parties.

Administrator – the Transylvania County Planning & Community Development Director coordinates the improvement efforts, contacts property owners and resources to implement improvement efforts, keeps records of applications for assistance, complaints from citizens and action on each case approved by the advisory council. The administrator will be appointed by the Commissioners/County Manager.

Board of Commissioners – appoints the Advisory Committee, establishes budget and policies governing the initiative.

Citizens – make applications for assistance, comply with initiative standards, communicate concerns, volunteer to support and provide resources for initiative implementation.

Procedures

- Citizens apply to the Administrator for assistance under the voluntary initiative or call regarding concerns.
- The administrator keeps records of applications and concerns.
- The Advisory Committee meets periodically (could be monthly to start and quarterly after the initiative is underway) to review applications and concerns and set priorities for the next period. The Advisory Committee and the Administrator agree on the approach for improvement efforts for the next period.
- The Administrator contacts the property owner and utilizes resources as needed to obtain agreements and waivers of liability and to implement the improvement effort. Records of the action are kept. If payment is needed for any service the administrator verifies the work done and submits a request for payment from the County. A file is kept on each case.

Education / Awareness

The Advisory Committee and Administrator will develop an education and awareness program that will include:

- Articles in local newspapers on recycling, Community Appearance Initiative.
- Public service announcements on cable TV.
- County and economic development website to have information about the initiative.
- Service Organizations and Business Associations help publicize.
- Solid Waste Collection Centers distribute initiative information.
- County clean-up week quarterly, including solid waste pick-up and tipping assistance.

Resources

Potential sources of assistance may include the following:

- Commissioners Approval of: initiative, funds, solid waste equipment, administrative staff
- Solid Waste equipment, containers, appliance and tire handling
- Salvage Dealers disposal of vehicles, scrap metal and other salvage materials
- Co-operative Extension / Soil & Water plantings
- Job Corps plantings, clean-up

- Grading Contractors / Salvage Dealers demolition
- Fire Departments Burning
- NCDENR, NCDOC, NCDOT, USDA, The Rural Center, Congress Grants
- Public / Environmental groups / Service Clubs volunteers, fund drives
- TDA funds
- Private donations / sponsorships
- Other (To Be Determined)

Standards / Regulation

The benefits under this initiative are meant to be a one-time benefit to any property owner. Persons benefiting from this initiative shall agree to prevent further placement or accumulation of abandoned manufactured homes, abandoned motor vehicles or junk on their property and maintained for a period of at least ten years. This agreement shall be in writing as determined by the County Attorney. The County shall be entitled to recover any expense benefiting the person who violates this agreement.

Junkyard owners benefiting from this initiative shall agree to maintain junkyard standards as listed below:

- Limit stacking or piling of material to no more than eight feet.
- Maintain a vegetative screen on sides of the junkyard that are visible from a public road.
- Avoid placement of salvage material or vehicles within fifty (50) feet of any water source, pond, lake, creek, stream or river. Use berms or plantings in this buffer zone to help control storm water run-off.
- Avoid placement of material outside the screened area.

Health violations shall be referred to the health department for action under G.S. 130A-19. Illegal dumping violations shall be subject to penalty per the Transylvania County Solid Waste Ordinance section 8.17 and/or referred to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Annual Report

The Advisory Committee shall issue a report annually describing the initiative's effectiveness, specific results achieved and any issues or non-compliance. Recommendations for making the initiative more effective and efficient and means of addressing initiative deficiencies shall also be included.

Budget

The planning board recommends the following budget items for the first year of the initiative:

- Contract costs for demolition of 10 abandoned manufactured homes
- Landfill fees for 100 tons of solid waste
- Assistance with screening
- Miscellaneous initiative costs (advertising, printing, postage,

The planning board estimates that 7.5 hours per week of administrative time will be needed to conduct this initiative during the first year.

Definitions

<u>Abandoned Mobile / Manufactured Home</u> – a mobile/manufactured home not habitable as a dwelling and not providing complete, independent living facilities including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation or has not received the proper permits to be located within the County's jurisdiction.

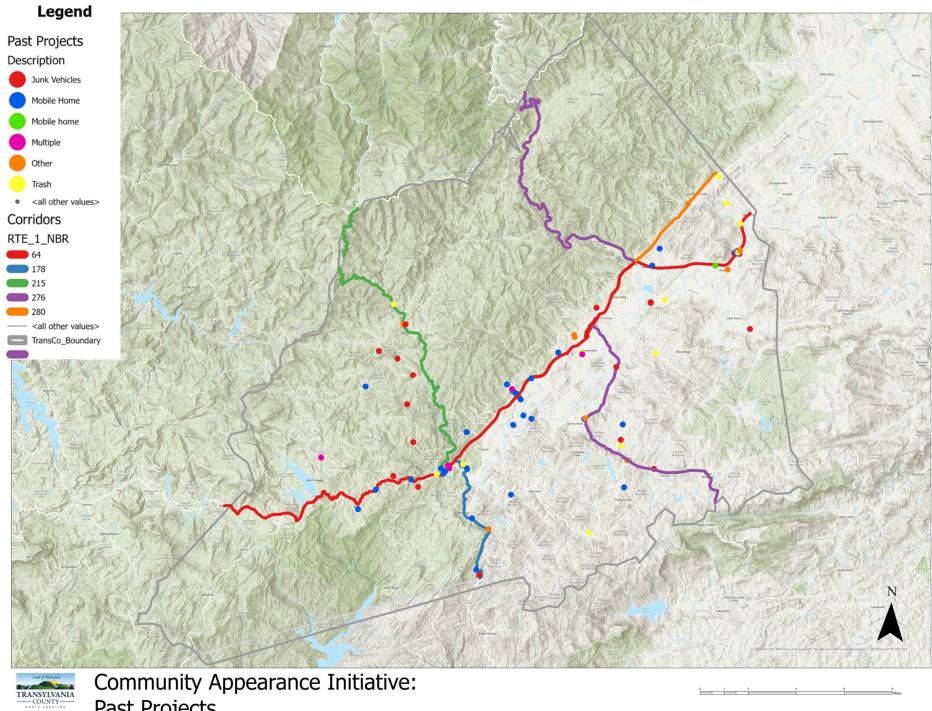
<u>Accumulated Junk</u> - junk covering 600 square feet (approximately 20 feet by 30 feet) or more of surface area, in total, whether in one area or several, on the same or contiguous parcels of land.

<u>Junk</u> – Wrecked, scrapped, disassembled, unusable, cannibalized, inoperable, or un-repairable boats, trailers, camping trailers, construction equipment, appliance, vehicle parts, building materials, scrap metal, rope, rags, paper, and rubber.

<u>Junked Motor Vehicle</u>: A motor vehicle that does not display a current North Carolina license plate and may be partially dismantled or wrecked and cannot be self propelled or moved in the manner in which it was originally intended to move.

<u>Junkyard</u> – Any establishment, place of business or place that is maintained, operated or used for storing, keeping buying or selling junk or for maintenance or operation of an automobile graveyard.

<u>Vegetative Screen</u> – An evergreen, continuous and opaque vegetative planting. Vegetation not less than two feet (2') in height shall be planted not more than six feet (6') apart and shall grow to at least six (6) feet in height within four (4) years of planting. Plants should have leaves or foliage at all times of year and shall include, but not be limited to, white pine, hemlock, southern pine, and spruce trees.



Community Appearance Initiative: Past Projects

Jeffrey Adams

From: Clark Lovelace

Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 12:18 PM

To: Jeffrey Adams
Cc: Virginia Watkins

Subject: Destination Infrastructure Committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Jeff,

I hope you can make it to your first DIC meeting next week (Tuesday at 9am above the Visitor Center). Assuming so, are you able to give a five-minute update on the community appearance initiative? As year-end is approaching, the committee will need to officially decide whether or not to provide year 2 funds with FY24 funds or FY25 funds, and the update will help get that decision going. Let me know.

Clark E. Lovelace

Executive Director
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