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**Bath County Planning Commission**

**Bath County Courthouse – Room 115 – 6:00 P.M.**

**October 28, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman John Loeffler, Monroe Farmer, Lynn Ellen Black,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cynthia Rudnick, Vice-Chair Jason Miller

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Mike Bollinger (press), Jack Lindsay

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sherry Ryder

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Chairman Loeffler** called the Bath County Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT—MATTERS UNRELATED TO THE AGENDA:** None

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Yes

**Chairman Loeffler:** The only addition we need to talk about is the December 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. While we are waiting on Mr. Lockaby, we can discuss it now, if it's ok with you all?

**Everyone** was ok with discussing it now.

**Chairman Loeffler:** With our next meeting falling on December 23, and the holidays, do you want to have the meeting or not?

**Sherry Ryder:** We do not have any public hearings coming up so far, and I don't know of anything critical coming up in December.

**Mr. Farmer:** I make a motion to cancel the December meeting.

**Lynn Ellen Black:** I second the motion.

**Vote: 3-0 - December meeting is canceled.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: None**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None**

**STAFF REPORT**

**Sherry Ryder: Gave an overview.**

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussion on zoning for Industrial Hemp Grower(s)

**Sherry Ryder:** Gave a brief update on Industrial Hemp Growth as permitted by Virginia Department of Agriculture Consumer Services. She relayed how this was brought up. She informed the Commission of the concerns expressed in a complaint of the smell.

**Jack Lindsay:** I went to Collierstown, Lexington for an auction on Saturday. There was a funny smell and everyone was complaining about headaches. When we left the auction, all the way back to Rt. 60, all the farms have it growing. Some of them were working on it and it completely stinks. The whole town stinks and the people at the auction were complaining about it. He was told that neighbors were moving out due to the smell. A lot of the farmers have gotten rid of their cattle and are now growing hemp.

**Lynn Ellen Black** stated that maybe she and the others should go visit the location.

**Sherry Ryder:** If they are pulling it now, it is because it is harvest time and needs to be done before frost. The closer it gets to harvest, the more it smells. Maybe with it calling for frost it may be harvested and not be there now.

John Loeffler and I have discussed it and we need to make sure, even though it's permitted, but at the same time, even if they weren't directed by the State, there needs to be regulation on setbacks, zoning, parcel size and locality for sure.

**John Loeffler** stated there were three parts to the hemp; the growing, processing and the dealing. Our goal is to have something for a public meet. For the January meeting, so the Board of Supervisors can have it in March.

**Sherry Ryder:** It is planted in April or May, around Mother's Day when frost threat has passed. We need it to be adopted, to be fair, before anything is planted. There is an investment in seeds, etc.

**Lynn Ellen Black:** So, we just need to fine tune the regulations.

**John Loeffler:** That is why we were hoping Mr. Lockaby would be here to help.

**Sherry Ryder:** We need to be specific too. It is not permitted in Residential. Mr. Lowry planted it in residential zoning district, but it is gone now. He wants to do it again and he is asking for the Planning Commission to think about permitting it in Residential Zoning, on this same piece of property.

**Mr. Farmer:** Has there been any other crops regulated because of odor?

**Sherry Ryder:** I think our regulation state that if it is going to be nauseating to the neighbors, and it does reference to odors in there.

**The Commission** discussed the problem caused by the Farm Bill with them not disclosing who and where the hemp is being planted. This makes it hard for the localities to get ahead of the possible problems and have regulations

- **Discuss Noise Ordinance.**

**Sherry Ryder:** Mr. Lockaby is still working on this.

**MINUTES: Minutes of August 26, 2019**

**Lynn Ellen Black:** I make a motion we approve the minutes.

**Mr. Farmer:** I second.

**VOTE: 3-0** Minutes approved.

**ADJOURN**

**Mr. Farmer:** I make a motion we adjourn.

**Lynn Ellen Black:** I second.

**VOTE: 3-0** Meeting adjourn.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Loeffler

  
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Date