

**Planning Advisory Board  
Meeting Summary  
April 14, 2021**

**Attendance:**

James Thornton  
Diane Sengstacke  
Geoffrey Close

**P&Z Staff:**

Jenny Jarkowski  
Jennifer Freeman  
Larry Richardson, Economic Development

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
- 2) **Minutes/Summary**

The PAB members approved the summary of the March 2021 PAB meeting.

- 3) **Legislative Overview**

Larry Richardson from Economic Development gave a presentation about the recent legislation that has passed. The 2020 session was wrapped early. So, they wanted to get a lot done in the 2021 session. They needed to get through the necessities, which included the budget. And they wanted to focus on critical issues, for example police reform. They had about 2300 bills filed this session. There were a lot of bills that went to the last minute to get passed. One bill of interest was a bill originally called the Natural Resources Forest Mitigation Banks Qualified Preservation Bill, HB991. This bill lets existing forest be counted for reforestation which is the current practice. This was combined with the Climate Solutions Now Act 2021. It defines Mitigation Banks and the credit granted is now 50%. It establishes programs also. These include any landowner that has land that is planted with a forested screen side buffer receives \$1000 per acre. There is a funding requirement in the state budget from fiscal year 24 – 31. There is a total requirement within certain areas. A few commissions have been established from this bill. Ms. Jarkowski asked if there was any testimony against the final bill. Mr. Richardson said there wasn't time. Mr. Close asked if there are penalties and fines. Mr. Richardson said there isn't any. Mr. Close asked when it becomes effective. Mr. Richardson said that is confusing. It mainly starts in June. Ms. Jarkowski said Planning and Zoning did try hard to make it something they can work with.

Mr. Richardson talked about a few pieces of legislation that didn't pass. Mostly because they ran out of time. He also went over a few bills that passed that are not

Planning related. One bill regarded Tax Credits. Some bills help with Broadband expansion.

**4) Other Business**

They discussed a few agenda ideas. Next month meeting will get a presentation about the Bike/Ped Plan. The next PAB meeting is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.