

APPROVED

Motion S. Culler
Seconded K. Arney

Carter County Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2015

Members Present

Jerry Pearman, Chairman
Ralph Watson, Vice-Chairman
Mayor
Steve Pierce
Jerry Smith
Ken Arney
Robert Carroll
Sonja Culler
Randall Jenkins
Ray Lyons
Mary Ann Patton

Members Absent

Jamie Hughes
Leon Humphrey,

Planning Staff Present

Chris Schuettler, Director
Diane Cannon, Secretary

Local Planning Staff Present

Ronda Sawyer

The Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Roll call. Quorum met. Sonja Culler made the motion to approve January 27, 2015 minutes and Ken Arney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

1. Tweetsie/Over Mountain Victory Trail Presentation. Mr. Schuettler began the meeting with a very informative power point presentation about Carter County and the opportunity for utilization of our very beautiful area as a means of attracting tourist thereby increasing our tourism industry. He made note that although there are over 53 sites of interest very few are mentioned on any of Carter County's websites. "It is very hard to find any information regarding areas of interest in Carter County - areas that, with proper representation online, could attract tourist for such things as fishing, whitewater rafting, nature enthusiasts, and history buffs online. Mr. Schuettler made mention of the historical sites we are blessed with here in Carter County - Covered Bridge, Sycamore Shoals Park, Roan Mountain, Tweetsie and Over Mountain Victory Trail attractions and made note that the average over-night traveler spends an average of \$42.39 per person per day while visiting the area. This is money that would provide additional funds to our local economy. He presented information regarding the current efforts to develop the Tweetsie/Over Mountain Victory Trail and stated that local government must pass a resolution in support of Tweetsie/Over Mountain Victory Trail in Carter County and decide who will spearhead development of trail and work with all shareholders. Mr. Randall Jenkins expressed a positive opinion and stated he felt the Park and Recreation Board would be in favor of

5. **Public Comments.** Mr. Mike McKinney, attorney for Wilderness Company, owner of Doe River Gorge Christian Camp, which lies in the area of part of the Tweetsie Trail, presented a letter addressing safety concerns creating the need for fencing a portion of the camp. He stated Wilderness Company opposes development of this portion of the Tweetsie Trail which is surrounded entirely by the camp and other individual land owners. Mr. McKinney stated his client would be interested in purchasing this area from the county. He asked the letter be considered and a decision made at a later date.
 6. **Adjournment.** Ralph Watson made the motion to adjourn and Sonja Culler seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.
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