

# Crozet Community Advisory Committee\*

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

## Meeting Minutes

**\*Note: This meeting was held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-A (6); An Ordinance to Ensure the Continuity of Government During the Covid-19 Disaster.**

- Members present
  - Allie Pesch, Chair
  - Shawn Bird, Vice Chair
  - Joe Fore, Secretary
  - Doug Bates
  - Jennie More, Planning Commission Liaison
  - Valerie Long
  - Tom Loach
  - Brian Day
  - Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors Liaison
  - Joshua Rector
  - Sandy Hausman
  - Kostas Alibertis
  - Mike Kunkel
- Albemarle/Government Staff present
  - Tori Kanellopoulos
  - Kevin McDermott
  - Rachel Falkenstein
  - Carolyn Shaffer, Clerk
- **The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm**
- The Chair introduced the participants.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 9<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion was **approved** by unanimous voice vote.

- Ann Mallek shared some thoughts about the current status of the Master Planning process and the shared goal of working to improve Crozet.
- **Land Use Recommendations Update**
  - Rachel Falkenstein shared the next steps for the Land Use section of the Master Plan. Staff will be adjusting their recommendations for the Middle Density category and the Downtown Neighborhood Overlay in light of the feedback they received from the Planning Commission.
- **Crozet Master Plan Transportation Recommendations**
  - Rachel Falkenstein led a discussion of the transportation recommendations for the Master Plan
  - The major goals were:
    - Network connectivity
    - Local and regional transit
    - Safety and access for all users
  - Summary of previous feedback/themes:
    - Need improved connectivity—especially downtown and in Eastern Crozet
    - More sidewalks and pedestrian-friendly upgrades
    - Support for additional railroad crossing
    - School traffic concerns along Route 250
    - Phasing improvements
  - Kevin McDermott provided a recap of the 2010 Master Plan projects and where they stood.
    - A number of the projects from the 2010 Master Plan have been completed, including Jarmans Gap, Crozet Streetscape, Crozet Avenue North (leading up to Crozet Elementary), aligning Eastern Avenue, the streetscape study for the Crozet Plaza, and the Main Street extension from the Square to Park Ridge.
    - Some projects remain uncompleted, including:
      - Eastern Avenue construction
      - Shared-use path along Crozet Avenue south of downtown
      - Park and Ride lot improvements
      - Route 250/I-64 Park & Ride lot (grant application just preliminary selected in Smart Scale round)
      - Park & Ride at Three Notch'd Road

- Route 250/240 roundabout (currently advertised for bidding; expected completion in 2021)
  - The Square/Barnes Lumber (in VDOT review; construction expected to begin sometime in 2021)
- Kevin McDermott led a conversation about updates on the 2045 Transportation Alternatives, which were originally presented at the December 9 CCAC meeting:
  - The “Quadrant” vs. “Big Circle” alternative for addressing the downtown intersection traffic. The Quadrant (with a roundabout) might be more feasible, and the installation of the roundabout might be able to be done as an interim project, before the entire project is completed.
  - High Street connection from Tabor up to the Barnes Lumber property, which would include full-width lanes and sidewalks
  - Dunvegan connection from High street
    - One potential short-term solution is to make Tabor a right-in, right-out only.
  - 250/Old Trail and Henley/Brownsville area improvements, including roundabouts at each of those areas.
    - Route 250/Crozet Avenue/Miller School Road could also be replaced by a roundabout.
  - **CCAC Comments/Feedback**
    - Joe Fore expressed support for the Quadrant approach
    - Ann Mallek and Kostas Alibertis both expressed concern about the Quadrant approach and how it might impact a future rescue squad building.
    - Ann Mallek also asked about the Dunvegan extension and its feasibility in light of the steep grade in that area.
    - A community member raised a question about the 250/240 intersection and the possibility of another railroad crossing somewhere to the east of downtown. Improvements to 250/240 are very difficult, as is the possibility of a railroad crossing. The railroad crossing is too speculative at this point to put on the map as a specific recommendation. But the Barnes Lumber developers are attempting to work a railroad crossing into their project.

- Shawn Bird and Ann Mallek both raised a suggestion of creating crosswalk markings at all four sides of the 250/240 intersection.
- **Road Typologies**
  - Kevin McDermott gave an overview of an update to the road typologies in the Crozet area—namely avenues, rural roads, and local roads.
  - Ann Mallek and a community member both raised concerns about speed limits and safety on Jarmans Gap west of Gray Rock
- **Road Connections**
  - One community member express support for pedestrian improvements from the eastern neighborhoods, namely Wickham Pond and Highlands
  - Another community member raised questions about the Hilltop downtown connection, which should be completed in the next 1-2 years, according to Kevin McDermott.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes**
  - Tori Kannellopoulos presented about trail and bicycle/pedestrian connections
  - Key priority areas:
    - Connecting eastern neighborhoods
    - Connecting to downtown
  - Staff sought input about prioritization for improvements to the Crozet trail
  - One community member raised a preference for an improved trail to at least Eastern Avenue, perhaps to the end of the developments as a way to allow better connectivity to Downtown
  - Staff also presented proposals for prioritizing sidewalks in the Crozet area, including High Street, Park, and Crozet Avenue
  - Allie Pesch expressed concern that there was insufficient time to hold a full discussion of the pedestrian and trail in the time allotted. Staff indicated that we could continue this conversation at the March meeting.

- **Committee Feelings about Master Plan Process**
  - Allie Pesch led a discussion of the committee's feelings about the recent Planning Commission meeting
  - Several committee members expressed frustration with staff's recent report to the Planning Commission, which they felt that they did not reflect the concerns that committee members and community members have been voicing throughout the master planning process.
  
- **The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.**