



# Montgomery County Planning & GIS Services 2016 Annual Report

## **2017 Commission & Boards**

### **Planning Commission**

**Chair:**

Bryan Rice

**Vice-Chair:**

Cindy Wells Disney

**Secretary:**

Coy Allen

**Members:**

Robert Miller

Scott Kroll

Bryan Katz

Steve Howard

William Foster

Trey Wolz

Chris Tuck (BOS Liaison)

April DeMotts (BOS Alt.)

### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

**Chair:**

Richard M. DiSalvo, Jr.

**Vice-Chair:**

Michael V. Reilly

**Members:**

C.P. "Chuck" Shorter

David Moore

Zach Milton

Robert Miller (alternate)

### **AFD Advisory Committee**

**Members:**

John Garrett

Thomas A. Loffin

Gregory W. Miller

Richard J. Obiso, Jr.

Robert J. Styne

Bryan Rice (PC Rep.)

Chris Tuck (BOS Rep.)

Vacant

Vacant

The Planning Commission Annual Report showcases the work of the Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the staff of Planning & GIS for 2016. This report meets the requirements in §15.2-2221 of the Code of Virginia, updating the Board of Supervisors on the operation of the Commission and the status of planning in Montgomery County. The Commission has accomplished significant tasks this year during the 10 meetings held between February through December. The coming meetings in 2017 will be full, as there is much to do related to the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Comprehensive Planning, and transportation.

## **2016 Planning & GIS Services Major Projects**

### **Transportation Projects:**

***Safe Routes To Schools***— In 2016 work continued on the County's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects. The Auburn design is nearly complete and will go to bid in the Spring 2017, to be constructed later that summer.

***Prices Fork Turn Lanes***— Montgomery County has partnered with VDOT as part of the Revenue Sharing Program to design and construct turning lanes in the Prices Fork Village area. The design work is beyond 50% and significant input was received from the public in the fall to help complete the design. It remains on schedule for a Spring 2018 bid date.

***Transportation Applications***- Planning & GIS staff coordinated many applications for transportation projects in 2016 with the guidance of both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Montgomery County successfully submitted three Smart Scale projects for scoring and a total of five FY2018 Revenue Sharing applications.

### **Village Planning:**

Prior to the update of the Prices Fork Village Plan, staff has contracted with the New River Valley Regional Commission for a study of the Prices Fork area into Western Blacksburg. This study kicked off in December 2016 and includes staff from Montgomery County, Town of Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and the Virginia Tech Foundation. Data is being collected related to transportation, land use, water, sewer, and stormwater and will be used as a starting point for the Prices Fork Village Plan update, as well as discussions on the Prices Fork Road corridor.

### **Subdivision Ordinance Update:**

Planning staff will be working with The Berkeley Group, LLC on an update to the Subdivision Ordinance. Early 2017 amendments will be drafted for the Planning Commission to review and refine in order to send to the Board of Supervisors as recommendations to adopt.

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## 2016 Annual Report

In addition to major projects that staff work on throughout the year, Planning & GIS staff have diligently been working on everyday activities. In 2016, Planning Staff processed the following requests for zoning permits and subdivisions:

Staff also processed the following applications for review by the Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Staff Review/Approvals				
Application Type	No. Received	No. Approved	Pending	Withdrawn
Predevelopment Permit	385	272	100	13
Major Subdivision	1	0	1	0
Minor Subdivision	21	17	3	1
Boundary Line Adjustment Plat	40	28	8	4
Family Subdivision Plat	7	5	2	0

Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission & Board of Supervisors			
Application Type	Number Processed	Number Approved	Number with Proffers or Conditions
Rezoning	1	1	1
Special Use Permit	3	2 (1 pending)	1
Special Use Permit (BZA)	4	4	4
Variance/Appeal	2	0 (1 pending, 1 withdrawn)	0

### **Solar Ordinance Update:**

In September, the Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance that defined minor, major, and accessory use solar systems and what level of review and approval was required for each in specific zoning districts. Minor solar systems, which are 50% of the parcel or 1 acre, whichever is less, are permitted by right in certain districts. Major solar systems are defined as 50% or more of a parcel or more than one acre in size requires a special use permit in certain districts. Accessory use solar systems, which produce energy for on-site consumption, are permitted by right for both residential and commercial zones.

### **Accessory Structures Ordinance Update:**

In October, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance amending requirements for a special use permit for accessory structures in residential districts. Previously, the Board of Zoning Appeals would hear cases for special use permits for accessory structures that exceeded 1,200 sq. feet and/or 18 feet in height. Now, only accessory structures that exceed the square footage or height of the principal structure require the special use permit. This has enabled staff to issue more permits for accessory structures for customers, reducing time and cost to property owners as well as reducing workload for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals Updates**

Also in October, changes to the Zoning Ordinance were adopted by the Board of Supervisors in order to comply with State Code changes adopted by the General Assembly during the 2015 Session. These mostly related to the board's procedures and a revised standard for consideration of requests for variances.

### **Sign Ordinance Progress:**

Work continues on the revisions to the sign ordinance to ensure its compliance with new laws related to signage and content.

## 2016 Annual Report

### GIS AND MAPPING SERVICES

In addition to ongoing daily duties and continuing activities (assisting various departments/agencies, creating E911 addresses/road names, creating/updating various mapping layers to support County departments/agencies, maintaining the external iGIS website, providing maps, etc.) GIS staff has participated and assisted with several projects throughout the year such as: creating and enhancing public and private services, hotels and restaurant GIS data for the Regional Tourism map portal; creating maps associated with the proposed MVP pipeline; and providing data/mapping associated with rural additions program and safe routes to school grant. In addition to those projects: .

The following agencies/departments/citizens have received support or assistance from GIS Staff in 2016:

- Budget
- Commissioner of Revenue (Land Use Program)
- County Attorney (MVP)/Administration
- Economic Development
- Emergency Services & Fire Rescue
- Engineering & Regulatory Compliance
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- NRV911 Authority
- Parks & Recreation
- Regional Tourism
- Voter Registrar
- Virginia Game & Inland Fisheries
- Sheriff's Office & US Marshals Office
- Citizens, Realtors, Taxpayers, & Visitors

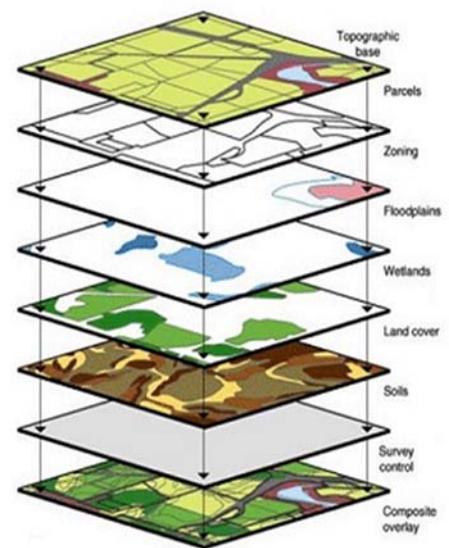
### NRV REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

Senior GIS Analyst provides primary support to the NRV Regional Emergency Communications Authority for GIS data verification, testing and maintenance of the E911 and physical address location databases and New World CAD/Mapping application, design and establish configuration/appearance of CAD/Mapping dispatch application, maintain specific E911, emergency response, and law enforcement GIS geospatial data/applications, assists with emergency management functions during disasters & emergencies, coordinates with Town and VT GIS managers to maintain consistent geospatial data, and extracts merged GIS geospatial data from NRV911 database for each of the Authorities jurisdictional partners.

### LAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (LDO) SOFTWARE

LDO was further developed in 2016. Staff worked with Building Inspections, OVELA (iGIS application developer), XEROX (application developer), and County IT staff to integrate our Advanced Permitting & Inspections portal (APIX) with our Field Data Application for Code Enforcement/Compliance and Building Permitting and Inspections.

Upcoming: To prepare for the future, principal stakeholders plan to prepare and release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the replacement of our 8 year old LDO application to achieve eGOV enhanced functionality, web orientation, and more end user citizen/business friendly approach for land development management.



# 2016 Annual Report

Major Projects Cont'd from page 1

## **Director Graduated from Chamber's Leadership Program**

Emily Gibson graduated from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership NRV program in November 2016. Leadership NRV engages a select group of current and future community leaders each year with the goal of increasing their awareness of the dynamics of today's social and economic changes and their impact on the community to develop a cohort of leaders who remain committed to improving the region. Congratulations, Emily!

## **Internship Program Development**

Staff has been working to develop a more formal internship program with the goal of recruiting and accepting a summer intern. Recently, the Department hosted, Lyndee Weaver for a winter break internship (Dec. 2016—Jan. 2017). Lyndee has been hard at work learning about the planning process in a local government setting and researching how other municipalities throughout the Commonwealth communicate with the general public—from major projects such as comprehensive planning to daily permitting resources.

## **New Staff Member: Catherine Garner**

In November 2016, Catherine Garner joined the Montgomery County staff as a Planning Technician. She has been busy learning the Montgomery County ordinances and processes and is already helping out with the departmental workload. Catherine joins Montgomery County after working for the City of Salisbury, NC.

## **Ongoing Training:**

Scott Kroll, Bob Miller, and Emily Gibson attended the Land Use Education Program (LUEP) Virginia Legal Seminar. Scott Kroll, Steve Howard, Bob Miller, Emily Gibson, Brea Hopkins, and Dari Jenkins attended the annual Planning Commissioners' Dinner hosted by the Regional Commission. Dari Jenkins attended the VAZO Fall Conference. Brea Hopkins and Emily Gibson also attended the annual APA Virginia Conference in Wintergreen. Bob Miller attended LUEP's Solar Workshop, held in Emporia.

## **PLANNING & GIS SERVICES STAFF**

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