

**Mayoral Advisory Committee Meeting  
City of Sky Valley, Georgia  
February 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.  
Via TeleConference (Zoom)**

**MINUTES**

**THOSE PRESENT:** Bill Oliver, Ed Morley, Tim Darrah, Martin Greene, Dan McAfee, Mayor Hollie Steil, and City Clerk Fleming

**THOSE ABSENT:** David Spears

**1. Welcome**

Bill Oliver, Chairperson, thanked all for attending and hopes, in the near future, to have in person meetings.

**2. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Steil stated that the Council is looking forward to hearing the recommendations of the Committee so they can get things started. She also thanked the members for what they do for Sky Valley.

**3. Approval of Minutes, January 26, 2021**

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes as present, seconded by Tim, unanimously approved.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**4. Continued discussion of Comprehensive Plan**

- **Comparison to property owners survey**
- **Actions missing or items needed to be added or adjusted?**
- **Priorities**

Bill stated that setting of priorities is needed. This would help in creating a concrete action plan and a timeline for strategic planning to focus on action as appropriate. Ed stated that a five-year infrastructure plan is needed so we could put numbers to it. Comparisons with the property owner's survey, were discussed. Some of the biggest alignments were on infrastructure, (internet, roads, culverts). Tim is still talking with other representatives concerning broadband, which Karla Stahl volunteered to help him with this endeavor. Tim is also in contact with the Department of Community of Affairs, Stan Brown, and Kathy Papa, concerning the need for expanded coverage, rural broadband, in this area. Information is being obtained from them to help with the funding and how to become a

“broadband ready community”. Tim has a meeting scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> of March to obtain further information. TruVista along with Windstream has not been in contact concerning expansions/upgrades. North Georgia Network, a domain of HEMC, will be contacted to see if they are interested in coming into the Sky Valley area.

Bill read the top items for each of categories of the property owner’s survey.

**Important Qualities** – natural beauty, safety, quiet place to relax, well maintain streets

**Important Infrastructure** – clear ditches and roadsides, improve internet service, improve cell phone service, repair culverts, trim trees, pave/stripe streets, maintain new landscaping, maintain additional exit

**Preferred Amenities** – hiking trails, country club, fitness center, amphitheater

**Desired Development** – commercial district and conservation easement

An amphitheater was discussed which would entail purchasing some land from Harrison Merrill or to get him interested in developing himself. Martin Greene agreed to the gathering of information concerning this idea, so it could be presented to Mr. Merrill. Ed had mentioned the need for additional condominiums needed and the possibility of Mr. Merrill selling property to other developers. Bill has been talking with Lamar Brazwell, a developer, which showed some interest but has not heard anything back as of date. Dan had suggested trying to find out what is making some of the potential developers to lose interest. A feasibility study may be needed for data, concerning developmental activities. Bill will give Mr. Merrill a call to touch base with him and see if a meeting could be set up with the Committee. He will also try reaching out to Mr. Brazwell as well.

## **5. Other items**

Discussion concerning the need for a sewer system along with the cost. Also, the need for additional revenue sources to help our tax base, for the funding of new projects and to keep areas well maintained. Tim had suggested getting a consultant to put a package together.

Tim stated that there is a map at City Hall showing the internet coverage areas in Sky Valley. The map shows Windstream and Truvista’s ISP, internet speed, for each area and can be purchased for \$5.00.

Ed talked about the need of volunteers to help maintain some of the hiking trails in the area. Dan suggested talking to Cathy Turner as she has a list of names of hikers, in Sky Valley. Ed stated that he would follow up with her.

## **6. Questions and Answers**

Karla Stahl commented on the lack of internet service in the area of Sky Valley that she lives.

## **7. Setting of Next Meeting Date and Time**

Bill will check with Harrison Merrill to see if he could meet with the Committee and will set a date at a later time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Tim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dan, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Karen Fleming, City Clerk