

The Dorchester County Board of Appeals met in regular session on Thursday, February 19, 2015 in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 7:00 PM. Present were Ed Howard, Vice-Chairman, Wendell Foxwell, Catherine McCulley, Chairperson, Catherine Howard, Walt Gunby, Attorney, Steve Dodd, Director of Planning. Absent was Dwight Cromwell.

WORK SESSION MEETING

7:00 PM

Mr. Gunby opened the meeting by explaining the purpose of this work session meeting and how the BOA Meetings were done in the past. There were no procedures in place at that time and the members performed more like legislatures than Board members. There was no method of presenting criteria nor documenting it to stop appeals. Mr. Gunby stated the practices of the Board in the past had changed due to the current day practices.

The purpose of this work session tonight will be to discuss how the Board will now need to comply with the Open Meetings Act.

1. Ms. McCulley will announce which of the (14) exceptions (most likely will be #7 – To Consult with Council) and a reason for a closed session is being held.
2. Ms. McCulley will now have to document each time a “Closed Session” is requested with the form entitled “Presiding Officer’s Written Statement for Closing Meeting” and this document will be sealed and recorded in the minutes.
3. No other questions are to be discussed other than what was addressed prior to the request to deliberate for a “Closed Session”. Notes are to be taken during this time by the individual recording the meeting.
4. Any deliberations between the Board can now take place in open session between members and Legal Council.

Now for a closed session guidelines have to followed, recorded and documented per the “Open Meetings Act” in compliance and to prevent violations that could occur.

Special Exception Case Law – It is not enough for opponents to show that the Special Exception to be burdensome in some way, it has to be factual and convincing and show evidence that it is way more burdensome than a Special Exception located in the same area. Also, to be have an adverse impact to the neighborhood.

Mr. Dodd suggested that each Board member take the online course, the website was provided in the handouts for training purposes.

Time of adjournment: 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Dodd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" and "D".

Steve Dodd
Executive Secretary