

1 **COLUMBUS PLANNING BOARD**
2 **Minutes of Regular Meeting**
3 **Wednesday, January 23, 2019**
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5 The Town of Columbus Planning Board met on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 4:00 p.m., at
6 the Columbus Town Hall, 95 Walker Street, Columbus, North Carolina.
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8 **Roll Call:** Kathleen Nowakowski
9 Jimmi Buell
10 Joan Scoggins
11 Brent Jackson
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14 **Staff Present:** Timothy J. Barth, Town Manager
15 Robert Williamson, Councilman
16 Shana Atkins, Assistant Town Clerk
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18 The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. A roll call was taken, and the Chairman acknowledged all
19 present.
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21 **Public Comment**

22 There were no public comments
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24 **Consideration of Minutes of the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting**

25 Mrs. Nowakowski asked if there were any changes to the September 10, 2018 minutes. There were no
26 changes requested. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes as written,
27 Ms. Buell seconded, motion carried unanimously.
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29 **Presentation by Robert Williamson**

30 Councilman Williamson introduced himself and thanked the Planning Board for giving him the
31 opportunity to speak at the meeting. Councilman Williamson shared the roles of planning and growth for
32 small towns. Councilman Williamson stated that in Chapter 154.044(A) of the town's zoning ordinance
33 the roles and duties of the Planning Board are defined, and it is specified that the board should meet
34 monthly. Councilman Williamson stated that the Planning Board should consider issues that will
35 facilitate growth in the town and then make recommendations to the Columbus Town Council for
36 consideration. (Copy of detailed comments attached.)
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38 **Consideration of a variance for the property located at 155 West Mills Street:**
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40 Manager Barth stated that the property located at 155 West Mills Street was recently sold to Samco
41 Properties, and the new owner has asked that a variance be granted to ensure that the structure can be
42 restores to its current specifications in the future in the case of fire or other damages that would require
43 any part of the structure to be rebuilt. Manager Barth stated that there is 29-foot height restriction in the
44 courthouse overlay district to prevent any structures from being taller than the courthouse which would
45 prevent the company from being able to rebuild the structure to its current specifications in the future.
46 Mr. Barth stated that the new property owners want to be secure in their investment by ensuring that it
47 can be rebuilt to its current specifications, which include a maximum height of 41 feet. Ms. Buell asked
48 if the section in the middle was the only part that the company wants to be able to rebuild a second floor

49 to current height if a fire or another disaster should occur. Mr. Barth confirmed that the variance would
50 only be used to rebuild in the case of fire or other disaster

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52 Ms. Scoggins made a motion to grant a variance as requested to Samco Properties for Parcel # P60-158
53 to allow a building height of 41 feet for any future re-building due to damages so that the structure can
54 be restored to its existing specifications. Ms. Buell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
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57 There being no other business to discuss Ms. Buell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jackson seconded,
58 and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:47 p.m.
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Kathy Nowakowski, Chairman

Shana Atkins, Assistant Town Clerk